



Daily Report

East Asia

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Daily Report

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Japan

Tokyo Welcomes Mondale as U.S. Ambassador

OW0906065093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0533 GMT
9 Jun 93

[Text] Tokyo, June 9 KYODO—The Japanese Government welcomes a report that former Vice President Walter Mondale has been picked as the next U.S. ambassador to Japan, government sources said Wednesday. The sources said they expect the former vice president would have "influence" on the White House as ambassador.

Other government sources said they expect Mondale to play an intermediary role in bilateral relations which are under strain from such issues as trade friction.

Foreign Ministry sources said Mondale's appointment, if confirmed, could mean that the U.S. Government is preparing for intensified negotiations with Japan on such things as the trade problem. An aide to Mondale said in Washington on Tuesday that the former vice president had accepted the offer of the ambassadorship from President Bill Clinton.

Mondale, who served as vice president under former President Jimmy Carter, will succeed Michael Armacost as ambassador to Japan if his appointment is confirmed. Mondale's aide was contacted after THE WALL STREET JOURNAL reported that "Clinton has decided to name Mondale as the new U.S. ambassador to Japan."

Tokyo Asked Iran 'To Avoid' Military Buildup

OW0906004393 Tokyo KYODO in English 2324 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Tokyo, June 9 KYODO—Japan asked Iran last month to avoid a major military buildup that would pose a threat to neighboring countries, the ASAHI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday. Japan filed the request verbally and in written form before resuming low-interest Official Development Assistance to Iran, the mass-circulation daily said.

Japan has told Iran that it may reconsider its aid policy if Tehran were to sharply expand its military, the ASAHI said. The Japanese Government has briefed the United States about these measures, it said.

Japan exchanged diplomatic documents with Iran in Tehran on May 29 to provide 38.6 billion yen of Official Development Assistance, ending an 18-year suspension.

Motorcycle Makers Expand Production in PRC

OW0506061693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0525 GMT
5 Jun 93

[Text] Tokyo, June 5 KYODO—Three Japanese motorcycle manufacturers are expanding production in China to meet growing Chinese demand for the products. industry sources said Saturday. They said motorcycle

production in China by Honda Motor Co., Suzuki Motor Corp., and Yamaha Motor Corp. in fiscal 1993 is expected to rise more than 40 percent from the previous year to at least 1.4 million units.

Honda will boost its production at five assembly plants in China by 25 percent to about 560,000 in the year, the sources said. The company is investing 5.8 billion yen to expand its plant in Kumamoto Prefecture, southern Japan, which makes motorcycle components for assembly in China, the sources said.

Honda's Thai subsidiary will also supply motorcycle parts to its joint-venture assembly plant in Henan Province, which manufactures 100 cc motorbikes, the sources said.

They said Suzuki is also boosting its annual production in China by 30 percent to 350,000 and is investing more than 3 billion yen in its plant in Aichi Prefecture to increase parts supplies.

Yamaha is moving to expand its Chinese production by 65 percent to 550,000 units in fiscal 1993, while Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd, a manufacturer of 250 cc motorcycle engines, plans to increase its exports of engines by 10 times the current amount to 15,000, the sources said.

Aside from parts exports for assembly in China, Honda, Suzuki, and Yamaha plan to export a total of 400,000 finished motorcycles to the country within the year, the sources said.

Tokyo Plans Committee for Canadian Relations

OW0806094093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Tokyo, June 8 KYODO—Japan will establish a committee on Thursday [10 June] to advise the government on relations with Canada, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday.

Officials said the committee will be comprised of Yoshi Okawara, a former ambassador to the United States and now deputy chairman of the Trilateral Commission, Koichiro Ejiri, chairman of Mitsui and Co. Ltd., and Mikio Kato, associate managing director of the International House of Japan. They said the committee will follow up on a list of recommendations for strengthening the bilateral relationship, which was submitted to the Japanese and Canadian prime ministers last December by leading figures of the two countries grouped in the Japan-Canada Forum 2000.

Officials said a similar committee will be established in Canada and the two committees will subsequently exchange views.

Panel Proposes Easing Ban on 'Own-Share' Purchases

OW0906113393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1144 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Tokyo, June 8 KYODO—Companies should be allowed to buy their own stocks if their purchases are aimed at annulling cross-shareholdings with other firms, a Finance Ministry panel said Tuesday.

The panel, an advisory body to the head of the ministry's securities bureau, proposed in a report that the government ease its restrictions on own-share purchases by companies to facilitate cancellation of cross-shareholdings, associated with the "keiretsu" corporate groupings, which have long been criticized as a major trade barrier.

Currently, the nation's commerce law bans companies from buying its own stocks in principle, while U.S. companies can do so freely.

Since the bilateral structural impediments initiative (SII) talks with the United States identified Japan's cross-shareholding as a barrier for prospective foreign competitors, however, calls have mounted for an end to the ban so shares to be unleashed as a result of canceled cross-shareholdings can be absorbed by the issuers.

While admitting cross-shareholding has some merits, like providing a basis for a long-term, stable management, the panel said the practice also has negative by-products, such as distorted moves in stock prices.

Though it failed to present a unanimous view over whether cross-shareholding should be prohibited or not, it proposed that companies planning to break such relationships be allowed to buy their own stocks or encourage employees to acquire them in order to keep likely adverse effects on the market to a minimum.

The panel also suggested the easing of curbs voluntarily imposed by trust banks and life insurance houses on their management of occupational pension funds.

Each of the nation's trust banks and life insurers separately set the tool-to-tool upper limits for their investments of such funds.

For instance, up to 30 percent of such funds are allowed to be invested in stocks and more than half of the money should be put in relatively safe tools such as government bonds.

Survey Shows Mixed Company Reaction to Yen Rise

OW0906113493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Tokyo, June 8 KYODO—Nearly half of major Japanese companies see tough business ahead because of the yen's rise, while one in three anticipates no particular effects, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry

[MITI] said in a survey released Tuesday. But about 40 percent of those who saw no effect based their judgment on forward exchange contracts and other risk-hedging tools, the ministry said, and "more adverse effects will emerge if the yen's advance continues much longer."

The ministry conducted the survey May 20, when the dollar-yen rate stood at 110.40 yen, polling 149 companies in 19 industries.

Of the 126 that responded, 59 companies or 47 percent project hard times, especially automobile and electric machinery makers. In contrast, 19 percent, including paper-pulp, housing and utility companies, said the yen's rise "will lead to increased profits from lower prices of imported raw materials."

The remaining 34 percent answered, "no particular effects."

On possible measures if the yen reaches 100 yen per dollar, where multiple answers could be given, 52 percent chose "hikes in prices denominated in foreign currencies, followed by 42 percent for "increase in overseas procurement."

"Increase yen-denominated exports and exchange risk-hedging" was marked by 30 percent, "increase local production" by 30 percent and "decrease or stop exports" by 27 percent.

"Japanese vehicles have already lost their price competitiveness in the United States," one of the polled auto-makers said, echoing industry concern sales volume will decline if prices denominated in foreign currencies are raised further.

One of the steel makers said, "capital investment will be decreased on export-oriented products."

Of 67 companies that saw decreased profit stemming from the yen's rise, 31 percent have not hedged risks for the April-June quarter and 42 percent have not done so for the July-September quarter.

Tokyo Ratifies Two Environmental Treaties

OW0406155493 Tokyo KYODO in English 1504 GMT
4 Jun 93

[Text] Tokyo, June 5 KYODO—Japan on Saturday ratified two international conventions relating to the environment, timed to coincide with "World Environmental Day," the Foreign Ministry said Saturday. Officials said Japan has deposited instruments of acceptance of the "United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change" and the "Convention on Biological Diversity" with U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

The first convention, to which Japan has become the 18th party, establishes an international framework to cope with climate change caused by increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, with

possible harmful effects on natural ecosystems and humankind. It was drawn up in May 1992.

The second convention, Japan becoming the 21st party, relates to the conservation of life forms and their habitats, the utilization of biological resources in a sustainable manner, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources. It was drawn up in June 1992.

Japan signed both conventions at the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mongolia

Ochirbat Election Win 'Virtually Wrapped Up'

OW0706115193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1135 GMT
7 Jun 93

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, June 7 KYODO—Mongolia's incumbent President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat had virtually wrapped up the presidency for another five years by Monday [7 June], according to the country's Central Election Administration Committee.

The election committee said that as of 5:00 P.M. coalition candidate Ochirbat had obtained 58.3 percent of the vote in major electoral districts counted so far, defeating his only challenger, Lodongiyn Tudeb of the ruling [Mongolian] People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP).

The poll was the first direct presidential election since the country started its democratization process in 1990.

The election headquarters of the opposition three-party coalition said Ochirbat had won 60-70 percent of the vote in urban electoral districts with 575,000 people, a quarter of the entire population.

In major cities, the incumbent president polled 59.2 percent of the votes in Ulaanbaatar, 63.5 percent in Darhan and 73.5 in Erdenet, the coalition headquarters said.

Also in rural districts, Ochirbat gained a majority of votes in 11 of the 18 provinces in Mongolia, while Tudeb took two provinces, the opponents said. Votes from five provinces remain to be counted, they said.

The ruling MPRP election headquarters also admitted that Tudeb has been losing in most of the electoral areas.

Ochirbat decided to run on the opposition ticket after he failed in April to secure the MPRP nomination for the presidential election.

North Korea

Ministry: U.S. Pressure in Talks 'Cannot Work'

SK0806153293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1521
GMT 8 Jun 93

[“The U.S. Must Participate in Talks With Sincere Attitude, Not With Pressure: DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today answered a question put by KCNA as regards the rumor about utterances of a spokesman for the U.S. State Department that if the DPRK-U.S. talks scheduled for June 10 ended in failure, the United States would seek sanctions against the DPRK.

He said:

“If the spokesman for the U.S. State Department really made such remarks, it is an act devoid of elementary courtesy and faith as a partner in the talks.

“To make utterances getting on the other's nerve at a time when the talks are at their height cannot be construed otherwise than pressure on the DPRK.

“It is well known in the world that any pressure cannot work on the DPRK which regards independence as its life and soul.

“If the United States truly want a success at the talks, it must participate in the talks with a more sincere attitude, not with pressure.

“No positive results can be expected from pressure at the talks.”

U.S. Stages 'Surprise Air Strike Exercise'

SK0806052793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423
GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on June 6 staged a surprise air strike exercise against the North in the sky above South Korea, according to military sources.

Formations of Pacific-based nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers, assault planes and pursuit-assault planes were frantic in the exercise of surprise air strike on the northern half of Korea in the skies above Pyongchang and Tanyang, South Korea.

Earlier, on June 5, formations of assault planes and VTOL [vertical take-off and landing] assault planes based in Japan staged an exercise of strike at ground targets in the sky above Yongsan, South Korea.

KCNA Denounces Kim Yong-sam Remarks at Conference

SK0906050993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444
GMT 9 Jun 93

[“Civilian Regime” Betrays Its Fascist, Anti-reunification Nature”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, June 9 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sam of South Korea in a recent “press conference for home and foreign reporters 100 days after he took office” praised himself for his office... those days and crooned about plausible “political commitments”. But he could not conceal his sinister intention under the veil of “civilian regime”.

He said he was not “a president lording it over the people but a president serving them” and he styled himself a standard bearer in achieving “democracy” and “liquidating injustices”.

But he threatened that “anyone who offends against the law will never be pardoned,” openly revealing his intention to more harshly crack down on the struggle of South Korean students for independence, democracy and reunification.

The utterances of Kim Yong-sam indicate that the “civilian regime” of South Korea is a fascist one little different in essence from the successive military fascist dictatorial “regimes”.

At the press conference the South Korean ruler brought forward again the fictitious “nuclear problem” of the North. He said “As the North has nuclear weapons, the South cannot shake hands with it” and “Trust can never be restored between the North and the South.”

This is a brigandish logic reversing black and white.

The one which cannot be trusted is not the North that has neither intention nor capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons but the South Korean authorities who not only have more than 1,000 nuclear weapons of the United States deployed in South Korea but also are accelerating the development of their own nuclear weapons.

We cannot but condemn with national resentment and hatred the South Korean authorities who keep mum about this.

The South Korean rulers must stop such treacherous acts as acting on the U.S. order.

KCNA Criticizes South’s Treatment of Students

SK0806062193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421
GMT 8 Jun 93

[“Criminal Repressive Order”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—Yi Hae-ku, “home minister” of South Korea, at a recent joint press conference called by the “Home Ministry”, the “Ministry of Justice” and the “Ministry of Education” blared that “anyone who have contact with the North without permission and participate in a violent demonstration will be severely dealt with,” South Korean YONHAP News Agency reported.

This is a fascist outrage to suppress the righteous struggle of South Korean students for independence, democracy and reunification, branding it as “illegal”.

As is known, South Korean students inaugurated a new student organization, the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), and on May 29 held the first meeting of the joint presidium of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country’s Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) through telephone and reached an agreement to hold talks at Panmunjom on June 12.

If the South Korean authorities truly want reunification, they must praise and actively encourage such righteous acts of the patriotic students.

The “home minister”, however, said that “Hanchongnyon’s” struggle “Would Be No Longer Overlooked”, charging that it “Sympathized With the North’s Policy Toward the South” and “Called for Reunification Through Confederacy as Proposed by the North.”

This shows that the present ruling forces of South Korea advertising “civilian government” are anti-reunification forces little different from the former fascist military dictatorial “regimes.”

If the present “regime” of South Korea truly seeks “civilian politics”, it must abolish the “national security law” that criminalizes the pro-reunification patriotic forces and stop at once the vicious moves to crack down on the struggle of the patriotic students.

Commentary Urges End of ROK Intelligence Agency

SK0906102293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: “The Agency for National Security Planning Should Be Dissolved”]

[Text] Recently, the Agency for the National Security Planning [NSP], which has been notorious for a hotbed of the fabrication of intelligence and fascist murder rule, is openly kicking up criminal maneuvers in South Korea.

Recently, the rascals spread a groundless fabricated report against us. They fabricated a so-called spy group incident. They linked the patriotic figures calling for independence, democracy, and reunification with us. By

so doing, they did not hesitate to commit the crimes of arresting, imprisoning, and persecuting the patriotic figures.

The puppet NSP's maneuvers are a premeditated maneuver to throw a wet blanket over the trends of national reunification which are daily growing in South Korean. The maneuvers are also a premeditated maneuver to aggravate North-South relations by fostering antagonism and confrontation against the North among the South Korean people.

As everyone knows, the youths, students, and people are vigorously struggling for independence, democracy, and reunification in South Korea.

In order to sum up the past struggle of the National Council of Student Representatives and to bring about a new turn in struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification, the South Korean youths and students founded the Korean Federation of General Student Council [Hanchongnyon] in April. In May, they held the inaugural ceremony for the first term of the Hanchongnyon.

With the inaugural ceremony as an occasion, the Hanchongnyon waged a vigorous struggle to reveal the truth of the Kwangju massacre, persecute the murderers of the Kwangju massacre, and drive the Yankee U.S. imperialists out of South Korea.

In the meantime, the Hanchongnyon attended the first joint chairmen's conference of the National Alliance of Youths and Students for the Country's Reunification [Pomchonghangnyon]. Representatives of the North, South, and overseas Pomchonghangnyon headquarters participated in the first joint chairmen's conference. They reached an agreement on a series of issues to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

The Hanchongnyon is waging a vigorous struggle to realize the talks between the North-South youths and students on 12 June. In addition, the people of all strata, including dissident forces for democracy, waging a vigorous struggle in South Korea.

Responding to the struggle of youths and students, the South Korean Christian Council issued a statement some time ago, claiming that the unhappy past incidents be revealed. It demanded that the truth of the Kwangju incident be revealed. The Kwangju City Assembly also issued a statement calling for the truth of the Kwangju incident.

To investigate the truth of 18 May Kwangju Movement for Democracy, the opposition Democratic Party has installed offices in its Kwangju City chapter and North Cholla Province chapter since 15 May. It has started its activities to reveal the truth of the Kwangju incident, 12 December incident in 1979, and 16 May incident in 1980.

Taken by surprise by the struggle of the people of all strata, including youths and students, the NSP fabricated a shocking strategic incident to suppress the patriotic figures for reunification and democracy and to divert elsewhere the people's attention.

Whenever struggle for national reunification was strengthened and the fascist rule was faced with a crisis, the NSP fabricated shocking strategic incidents. This has been a stereotyped method.

Around the 13th World Festival for Youths and Students which was brilliantly held in the northern half of the Republic in 1989, figures of all strata and representatives of youths and students—including Rev. Mun Ik-when, Yu Won-ho, and Yim Su-kyong—visited the northern half of the Republic. The trend of national reunification mounted than ever before in South Korea. Then, the NSP arrested, imprisoned, and persecuted them by branding them as spies, too.

Today, the struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification is mounting in South Korea. In particular, youths and students are vigorously struggling to realize the talks between the North-South youths and students and to achieve national reunification. The NSP is suppressing the patriotic forces for reunification and democracy by fabricating such a strategic incident as the so-called spy group incident.

It is unreasonable in the days of the so-called civilian-controlled regime to still maintain the NSP—remnant of the Fifth and Sixth Republics and the hotbed of intelligence fabrication and fascist suppression. If the current regime is a genuine civilian-controlled regime, it should have dissolved the NSP when the Sixth Republic expired.

Mainly because the current regime maintains the NSP as it is, even though the NSP pretended to shrink when the current regime was launched, it is once again showing its color as the hotbed of the fabrication of intelligence and fascist suppression.

The NSP rascals still put up a slogan, "Even when the wind blows, the mountain does not move," at Yanjihoe—a secret office of their organization. This is an actual evidence showing that the rascals' inherent nature can never be changed.

Facts once again clearly show that as long as there remains the NSP as it is, the democracy of the South Korean society and national reunification cannot be achieved.

If the South Korean authorities are to conduct civilian-controlled politics, they should remove the antiquated remnants of the Fifth and Sixth Republics, such as the NSP and the National Security Law. Whether they remove the NSP will be a yardstick showing their will of the civilian-controlled politics.

NORTHEAST ASIA

KCNA Alleges South 'Massacre' During Korean War

SK0806234293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518
GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—The South Korean newspaper HANGYORE SINMUN on May 25 carried an article exposing the inside story of the massacre committed by the puppet army in Sanchong and Hamyang Counties during the Korean war.

This is a shuddering incident in which the third battalion of the ninth regiment of the eleventh division of the puppet army let loose in a punitive operation against "communist rebels" on February 8, 1951 murdered over 930 innocent people of twelve villages in Kumso-myon and Sichon-myon, Sanchong County, and Yurim-myon in Hamyang County, South Kyongsang Province.

The background of the incident was disclosed when two "assemblymen" proposed the adoption of a recommendation urging a probe into the truth behind the incident and the rehabilitation of the victims at an extraordinary session of the Sanchong County assembly on May 22.

Many people who had demanded a probe into the truth behind the massacre had been imprisoned in the past, branded as "pro-communist" elements and, until now, the rehabilitation of the dead and bereaved families has not been made and a cemetery and a cenotaph have not been built.

The paper noted that the Sanchong county assembly, therefore, decided to send a recommendation demanding a probe into the incident to the "government", "National Assembly" and "home and defence ministers".

This shocking incident of murder newly exposed in South Korea, along with the previously known incidents, clearly show what anti-national and ferocious group of murderers the puppet army of South Korea is.

Daily Urges South To Realize Kwangju Ideals

SK0806120393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026
GMT 8 Jun 93

[NODONG SINMUN Supports South Korean People's Struggle"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today runs a by-lined article titled "Just Is the Struggle To Realise the Idea of the Kwangju Uprising".

It is natural and is an exercise of an inalienable right that the South Korean people languishing under the colonial rule of the U.S. imperialists and oppression by the anti-national forces fight against the oppressors to be freed from them, the author says, and continues:

What the participants in the Kwangju uprising desired was to live in a new society, independent, democratised and reunified, but this desire has not been realised.

Still more exasperating to the South Korean people is the act of the authorities who evade the solution of the "problem of the Kwangju incident". The problem of probing the truth behind the Kwangju incident and punishing its main culprits has been raised from long ago. But it still remains unsolved.

The United States that manipulated the Kwangju blood-bath behind the scene has not uttered a word of apology to the South Korean people for its thrice-cursed crime and the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u group, the murderer of Kwangju people, is swaggering about.

Those who are holding important posts of the present "regime" and the "democratic liberal party" of South Korea are overtly and covertly defending the criminals, saying that "they should be left to the judgement of history".

This gives rise to the strong doubt that the present "regime" also intends to cover up the truth of the Kwangju incident and bury it in oblivion as "an occurrence" of the past rather than probe its truth and punish the main culprits. To tolerate the attempt of the South Korean authorities to bury the Kwangju incident in the darkness of history means to tolerate the occupation of South Korea and colonial rule by the U.S. imperialists, the chief murderers, and the anti-democratic and anti-reunification moves of the anti-national forces and to leave the root cause of such a great national disaster so that it may occur again in South Korea.

The South Korean students and people should relentlessly continue their fight against the oppressors till their desire for independence, democracy and reunification will have been met.

PRC Envoy Helps in Construction of Monument

SK0606084093 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0802
GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Pyongyang, June 6 (KCNA)—Chinese Ambassador to Korea Zheng Yi and his embassy officials Saturday helped in the construction of the monument to the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

Giving a helping hand to the builders, they sang songs to encourage them.

Presenting aid materials to the builders, the helpers expressed the hope that the builders would make a fresh success in the construction of the monument.

Sculpture for 'Victory' Monument Complete

SK0806101993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011
GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—The creation of the sculpture of the main theme and the group sculptures of subsidiary themes has been completed for the monument to the victory in the fatherland liberation war under construction in Korea on the occasion of the 40th

anniversary of the victory in the war. These sculptures consisting of the sculpture of the main theme "victory", ten group sculptures of subsidiary themes and four decorative sculptures are another monumental masterpiece in scale and content.

The sculptures portray 78 characters.

The Mansudae Art Studio has completed these huge sculptures in one year.

On-site assembling of the sculptures is now in progress.

Workers Party Group Returns From PRC 3 Jun

SK0606021493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] The Workers Party of Korea [WPK] functionaries' delegation, led by Pak Chun-kun, vice director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, returned home today by train, after visiting China.

The delegation was met at the Pyongyang station by Yu Chae-yong, vice director of a department of the WPK Central Committee.

Cuban Military Leader Writes Kim Chong-il

SK0606033593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Congratulatory message from Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba, to Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army—read by announcer]

[Text] Pyongyang

Marshal Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, secretary of the Workers Party of Korea, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il

Upon hearing that you are elected as chairman of the DPRK Defense Commission, I extend wholehearted congratulations to you on behalf of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, the state, the government, all soldiers of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, and on my own behalf.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I am once again convinced that the firm friendly relations between the peoples and armies of our two countries will be further strengthened and developed as days pass.

I wish respected Comrade Kim Chong-il a greater success in your new responsible work. I also wish you health and happiness. I extend friendly greetings to you.

[Signed] General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba

[Dated] 16 April 1993, Havana

Embassy Hosts Banquet on Raul Castro's Birthday

SK0906100993 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] A banquet was arranged at the DPRK Embassy in Cuba on 4 June on the 62d birthday of Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces.

Ulises Rosales del Toro, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, first assistant to the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and chief of staff of the Armed Forces; the two vice ministers of the Revolutionary Armed Forces—one is the naval commander and the other is the Air Force commander and the anti-aircraft commander—who are members of the party Central Committee; and functionaries concerned were invited to the banquet. DPRK Ambassador to Cuba Kim Song-yong and embassy staff were present at the banquet.

Our country's ambassador to Cuba spoke at the banquet. He noted: Comrade Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces, made a great contribution to the victory of the Cuban revolution by participating in the revolutionary struggle against U.S. imperialists and the Batista dictatorial regime.

He said: The victorious advance of the Cuban revolution cannot be thought without revolutionary activities of Comrade Raul Castro Ruz, who is endlessly loyal to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and who holds the resolute spirit of fight, uncompromising revolutionary principle, talented organizational ability, and people-loving trait.

He also said: It is the 40th anniversary of the (Moncada) battle in Cuba. The Korean people hope that the Cuban people will excellently decorate this meaningful year with great political zeal and brilliant labor feats and that they will achieve greater success in their socialist economic construction and the construction of national defense in accordance with the demand of a special period in peace.

Next, the chief of staff spoke. He thanked the Korean comrades in the name of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces for arranging this meaningful banquet on the 62d birthday of Raul Castro Ruz.

Saying that it has been a beautiful tradition to arrange a friendly and fraternal gathering of love and gratitude on each birthday of the two countries' leaders at the DPRK

Embassy in Cuba or at the Cuban Embassy in the DPRK, he stressed that this shows the great unity and invincible solidarity between the leaders and people of the two countries.

The participants in the banquet drank toasts for longevity and health of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, of the Supreme Commander of the Cuban Revolution Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, and of the respected Raul Castro Ruz.

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Bulgaria

SK0806052993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425
GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—An agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the Governments of Korea and Bulgaria was signed here Monday [7 June].

Present at the signing ceremony on the Korean side were Vice-chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Kang Chong-mo and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side the members of the Bulgarian Government economic delegation led by Deputy Minister of Trade Kiril Velev and charge d'affaires ad interim of the Bulgarian Embassy here Atanas Mladenov.

Vice President Yi Chong-ok Meets Ugandan Leader

SK0706110693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011
GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] Pyongyang, June 7 (KCNA)—Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on June 4 met with Vice-president of the DPRK Yi Chong-ok on a visit to Uganda as a special envoy of President Kim Il-song.

Saying it is the legitimate right of the Korean people to live in a reunified land, the Ugandan president expressed the hope that under the leadership of His Excellency President Kim Il-song the Korean people would certainly achieve the reunification of the country through confederacy by removing the obstacles lying in the way of reunification.

He said he opposes foreign interference and pressure against Korea and all the attempts to isolate it.

Choe Tae-pok, Delegation Leave Portugal 4 Jun

SK0906100293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] The Korean Committee for Solidarity With the World People delegation led by Comrade Choe Tae-pok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of

Korea [WPK] Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee, left Lisbon, the capital city of Portugal, on 4 June.

Manuel Vargas Loureiro, chairman of the Democratic Renovation Party of Portugal, and our country's ambassador to Portugal saw off the delegation at the airport.

Foreign Leaders Meet DPRK Delegations, Envoys

SK0806061993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412
GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—Kazakh President Nursultan A. Nazarbayev said when he received a delegation of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that he hoped for more favorable development of friendly relations between the two countries, and sincerely wished that Korea would be a unified state.

Noting that the withdrawal of Korea from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is a matter pertaining to the security and sovereignty of Korea, he stressed that the U.S. nuclear weapons must be removed from South Korea.

Mozambican President Joaquim Alberto Chissano said when he met the Korean ambassador that he welcomed DPRK-U.S. talks now underway in New York and wished the talks a success. He said he supports the stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the talks.

He voiced support to the exchange of presidential envoys of the North and the South proposed by the DPRK, considering it a practical step to solve the reunification problem of the country.

He expressed the belief that the Korean people would surely achieve a peaceful reunification of the country under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

KCNA Reviews 9 Jun Pyongyang Press

SK0906095393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500
GMT 9 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, June 9 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that works of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were disseminated and studied in different countries.

An article of the paper deals with the loving care shown by President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il to anti-Japanese revolutionary martyr Kong Yong and his bereaved family.

The paper editorially calls upon the entire party members and working people to live and work in the spirit of

crossing a river in flame and walking a marsh displayed by the Korean people and People's Army soldiers during the rigorous Fatherland Liberation War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953) and in the post-war period.

MINJU CHOSON runs an article titled "driving force of socialism is motive force of victory of socialism".

Under the bannerline titles "Let us greet this year, the 40th anniversary of victory in the Korean War, with brilliant achievements in socialist economic construction" and "Let us effect a great upsurge on all fronts of socialist economic construction in the spirit with which we rehabilitated the economy from scratch after the ceasefire with empty hands and brought a great upsurge of chollima", papers deal with economic news including reports about weeding on cooperative farms and railway transport.

According to the press, talks were held between delegations of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan.

Appearing in the press is a telephone message sent by Premier Kang Song-san to the South Korean "prime minister" urging the South side to agree to the North side's proposal to have a working-level contact for the exchange of presidential envoys.

It is reported in papers that the DPRK and the USA agreed to continue talks between the two sides and a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry said, if the United States truly want success in the talks, it must participate in the negotiation with a sincere stand.

Printed in the press is a statement of the spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the suppression and confrontation row of the South Korean authorities directed against reunification.

NODONG SINMUN conveys world public voices supporting the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

The press reports that the South Korean people demanded the revision of the South Korea-U.S. "Status of Forces Agreement" and the Malagasy paper BASY VAVA carried an article headlined "South Korean Economy in Quagmire".

"National independence is patriotism and dependence on outside forces is treachery" is the title of an article of NODONG SINMUN.

Under the bannerline title "Strong-arm act encroaching upon the sovereignty of the Korean people can never be allowed", the paper rounds up world public voices denouncing the unreasonable "resolution" of the United Nations Security Council against the DPRK.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with a commentary denouncing Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa for preaching the usefulness of the presence of the U.S.

troops in the Asia-Pacific region and MINJU CHOSON with a commentary lashing out at the outburst of the commander of the U.S. Pacific fleet that "Asian countries" should exercise "influence" on the DPRK in cooperation with the United Nations.

The press informs the readers of the unending aerial surprise strike exercise conducted by the U.S. imperialists against the DPRK.

The press reports that the Malaysian prime minister rejected Western-style democracy, the Pakistani prime minister held negotiation with opposition parties to solve the present political crisis and the Buryatsiya Organisastion of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation was rebuilt.

NODONG SINMUN runs articles analysing the Cambodian situation after the general elections and exposing the corruption of the capitalist society where money decides everything.

An article of MINJU CHOSON exposes the moves of the Japanese ruling circles to expand the "self-defense forces", crying for an "international contribution".

KCNA Reviews 8 Jun Pyongyang Press

SK0806062893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437
GMT 8 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, June 8 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN here today reports that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a message from King Husayn the First of Jordan in reply to his message of greetings on the 47th anniversary of the independence of his country.

The work of the great leader President Kim Il-song "10-Point Programme of the Great Unity of the Whole Nation for the Reunification of the Country" was disseminated and studied in different countries, says the paper.

According to the paper, the South Korean people, overseas compatriots and world public fully support the programme.

Under the headline "The Great Leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song Is Legendary Hero, Outstanding Military Strategist and Ever-victorious Iron-willed Brilliant Commander", the paper gives an account of a press interview granted by the secretary general of the Asian regional committee for supporting Korea's reunification.

The paper informs the readers that works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were disseminated and studied in different countries and the Nicaraguan paper EL NUEVO DIARIO published an article explaining his work "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party".

The paper comes out with an article entitled "It Is Essential Advantage of Socialism That It Develops by the United Might of the Popular Masses".

Econews of papers includes a report about weeding in the countryside.

The sculpture of the main theme and the group sculptures of subsidiary themes were carried to the construction site of the monument to the victory in the Fatherland Liberation War (on July 27, 1953), reports the press.

The press introduces the newly-released feature film "An Urban Girl Comes to Countryside To Be Married", which shows the noble spiritual traits of the young people of the present era building the socialist countryside into a better civilized one.

A Korea-Bulgaria intergovernmental trade and economic cooperation agreement was signed, says the press.

According to NODONG SINMUN, the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland published its Information No. 632 denouncing the South Korean authorities' campus repression.

An article of the paper stresses the justice of the struggle of the South Korean students and people to carry into practice the idea of the Kwangju uprising.

It reports that the head of the delegation of the measure committee for compensation to the "comfort women for the army" and victims of the Pacific war of the DPRK, speaking at a working group meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights on modern-type slaves held in Geneva, stressed the need to deal with the problem of the "comfort women for the army" and the forcible drafting at the United Nations.

Its international news includes reports that the general secretary of the Peruvian Revolutionary Socialist Party said Korean-style socialism is invincible, the Tri-Continental People's Solidarity Organization observed the 13th anniversary of the Kwangju popular uprising in South Korea and the Dominican paper LAS NOTICIAS carried an article on a joint statement issued by the Workers' Party of Korea and the United Left Movement of Dominica.

The press reports that the Nepalese paper HINDU DAINIK carried a commentary entitled "Japan's Threat Growing in Asia" and a Canadian writer exposed the U.S. expansionist design.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article exposing murderous crimes in the United States.

KCNA Reviews 7 Jun NODONG SINMUN

SK0706060793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448
GMT 7 Jun 93

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang, June 7 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a photo-illustrated report that the great leader President Kim Il-song received the chairman of the Association for the Promotion of Korea's Reunification (ASOK) and his companion.

According to the paper, President Kim Il-song's reminiscences "With the Century" was disseminated and studied in various countries.

The classical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable" was reported in different countries, says the paper.

The paper reports that the president of the Mauritius Communist Party stressed in a press interview in Pyongyang that only victory and glory are in store for the Korean people under the guidance of the great leaders.

The paper devotes much space to an article saying that the party and the leader are immediately the mental support of the Korean people.

Econews of the paper includes reports about progress of weeding at rural communities across the country and about innovations in coal production.

It is reported in the paper that the Ugandan president met with Vice-president Yi Chong-ok, special envoy of President Kim Il-song, and talks were held in Lisbon between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Democratic Renovation Party of Portugal.

Figuring large in the paper is a letter sent by Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam to the U.N. secretary-general concerning the exposure of new materials on the merciless murder of Korean People's Army POWs by the U.S. troops during the Korean war.

Conveyed in the paper are an information of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing the South Korean authorities for stretching out the tentacle of suppression to students who have turned out in the struggle for a probe into the truth behind the Kwangju incident and for the reunification of the country and a summary of a statement of the overseas side headquarters of the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) hitting out at the crackdown upon the members of the Presidium of the South side headquarters of Pomchonghaknyon including the chairman of the South Korean Federation of General Student Councils.

A delegate of the international lawyers' committee referred to the issue of the "comfort women for the army" at a meeting of working groups of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights on modern-type slaves.

Spotlighted in the paper are speeches made at the world conference for supporting the Korean people's cause of peace, security, sovereignty and reunification held in Lisbon.

The paper reports that the Mozambican president supported the cause of the Palestinian people, the secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity expressed concern over the arrest of leading members of the pan-Africanist congress by the South African authorities, Cuba recognised Eritrea as an independent state and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and Kazakhstan established diplomatic relations.

An article of the paper says that those who commit suicide are sharply increasing in number in capitalist countries.

KCNA Reviews 5 June Pyongyang Press

*SK0506050793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439
GMT 5 Jun 93*

[Press Review]

[Text] Pyongyang, June 5 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Seychellois President France Albert Rene on the occasion of the 16th national day of the Republic of Seychelles.

Papers edit a letter to the great leader President Kim Il-song from the participants in the world conference for supporting the Korean people's cause of peace, security, sovereignty and reunification held in Lisbon, an account of the conference, the speech of the head of the DPRK delegation and documents adopted at the conference.

NODONG SINMUN reports that a letter was sent to President Kim Il-song from the participants in the seminar on his classical work "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the Reunification of the country" held at the Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, group for the study of the chuche idea.

All organizations under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan held study sessions on the reminiscences of the great leader "with the century" Vol. 3, says the paper.

The paper reports that the chairman of the Romanian Party for new society stressed the politics of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is absolutely right.

Classical works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il have been disseminated and studied in different countries, the paper says.

The paper comes out with an article on the immortal exploits of Kim Hyong-chik, an outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement of Korea and an indomitable revolutionary fighter, on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of his death.

The paper stresses in an article that the party members should enhance their vanguard role in all fields and units and in a political essay that the young people should become a flame in the struggle to implement the party's line and policy.

Econews of papers include reports about achievements in the fields of coal and machine building industries.

According to papers, Vice-president Yi Chong-ok, a special envoy of President Kim Il-song, was received by the president of the Ethiopian transitional government, and the president of Eritrea met the DPRK ambassador to Ethiopia.

Talks were held between delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Communist Party of Portugal, NODONG SINMUN reports.

Papers report that the commissioning ceremony of Tae-dong-gang joint-venture factory was held in Uzbekistan.

Given in the press are a telephone message sent by Kang Song-san, premier of the administration council of the DPRK, to the South Korean "prime minister" urging him not to attach conditions to the North's proposal for a working-level contact but approach it with sincerity for the exchange of special envoys of the top authorities of the North and the South and a report that the head of the DPRK delegation to the DPRK-U.S. talks was interviewed.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with a commentary entitled "Don't be a fool hunting for misfortune" on the open hostile act of Kim Yong-sam of South Korea against the North.

The paper conveys world public voices denouncing the unjust "resolution" of the U.N. Security Council against the DPRK.

The papers inform the readers that African presidents called for unity and cooperation and Cuba denounced anti-Cuba manoeuvres of the United States.

MINJU CHOSON marks world environment day and the 16th national day of Seychelles.

South Korea

Seoul Proposes 10 Jun Panmunjom Contact With North

*SK0906031493 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0205 GMT 9 Jun 93*

[Text] In a telephone message to North Korea this morning [9 June], the government proposed a vice-ministerial working-level contact at Tongilgak in Panmunjom tomorrow afternoon. The government stressed again that not only the envoy exchange but also the pressing nuclear issue should be discussed at tomorrow's contact.

The telephone message was sent in the name of Prime Minister Hwang In-song. In the message the government expressed regret that although North Korea recognizes the nuclear issue as an important question to be solved as soon as possible, it still insists on excluding it at the working-level contact and discussing only the exchange of envoys. It stressed that the settlement of the nuclear issue does not depend on whether the level of the contact is high or low, but depends on whether both sides have an intent to resolve the issue.

The government noted in particular: Because North Korea is now holding vice-ministerial negotiations with another country over an issue similar to the nuclear issue, it is possible to find a way to resolve the nuclear issue at South-North vice-ministerial working-level contacts as long as North Korea has an intent to settle the issue.

Yesterday North Korea proposed that the working-level contact deal with the envoy exchange only. Virtually rejecting the North Korean proposal, the government reiterated its original position of insisting on discussion of the nuclear issue as well as the envoy exchange. Accordingly, it seems that the working-level contact will not be held tomorrow unless North Korea changes its position.

Seoul Conditionally Accepts Contact Offer

SK0906032893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0319 GMT
9 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea told North Korea on Wednesday [9 June] that it agreed to hold a working-level meeting at Panmunjom on Thursday, but that the agenda must include both the nuclear problem and an exchange of special envoys.

In a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart, Prime Minister Hwang In-song accepted the proposal but said that South Korea wanted to hold the working-level contact "in Tongilgak (in the northern half of Panmunjom) at 3 [0600 GMT] on Thursday afternoon to discuss a way to solve the nuclear issue and the envoy exchange issue."

Hwang said: "I take note of the fact that your side has recognized the nuclear issue as a matter of grave concern for immediate solution. I believe if both sides really intend to solve the nuclear issue, a breakthrough for the solution would be made in the working-level contact."

It is uncertain if North Korea will accept this new proposal by South Korea as it continues to insist on discussing only the exchange of envoys in the contact, saying the nuclear issue can be discussed in the course of exchanging the envoys. On Tuesday, North Korea proposed that the meeting be in Tongilgak at 10 on Thursday morning to discuss the exchange only.

DPRK Envoy: Sanctions 'Declaration of War'

SK0906000893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
2325 GMT 8 Jun 93

[By correspondent Kim Yong-tae from New York]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] No one can predict whether the third DPRK-U.S. talks will end in success or failure. The United States has said that the results of the previous two rounds of talks were disappointing.

Answering correspondents' questions today [8 June] about the prospects of the third DPRK-U.S. talks, North Korean Ambassador to the United Nations Pak Kil-yon said that if the United Nations imposed economic sanctions against North Korea, this would be a sort of declaration of war [ilchongui sonjonpogo] and that a war would break out on the Korean peninsula. The remarks by Ambassador Pak indicate that the third DPRK-U.S. talks are very likely to break down. [passage omitted]

U.S. Sanction 'Threats' Denounced

SK0906014393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT
9 Jun 93

[Text] United Nations, June 8 [date as received] (YONHAP)—North Korea accused the United States on Tuesday [8 June] of resorting to threats and pressure when it agreed to negotiations and warned Washington that it would be responsible if the talks collapsed. "It's just not possible that it was the United States who proposed the date for the third contact but then it announces a statement making threats," Ho Chong, North Korean deputy chief of mission to the United Nations, said.

Ho, in a meeting he requested with South Korean reporters, said he "cannot but be disappointed" if Monday's statement reflected the U.S. Government's position. Pyongyang and Washington meet Thursday for a third round of talks on solving North Korea's nuclear problem. The United States at minimum wants North Korea to promise it will stay in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Pyongyang's withdrawal from the NPT becomes official on June 12, and Thursday's contact is seen as the last negotiation before the international community starts taking tougher actions on the communist regime.

U.S. State Department Spokesman Mike McCurry told a press briefing Monday that two previous rounds were disappointing. He said the United States and its allies would discuss sanction measures if the third round was also unfruitful. "The United States should come to the third meeting with sincerity," said Ho, "the talks will find a compromise if the United States comes to it with an attitude of mutual respect, not of might."

Seoul Radio Reports U.S. Official's Remarks

SK0906103393 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean
0955 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The United States warned that if the international community fails to persuade North Korea to revoke its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] some time this week, the United States will take a strong measure. Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, said this in a news conference with cities of countries in Asia via satellite today. He added that if a country actually secedes from the NPT system for the first time in history, this is a very serious problem and the United States cannot but be firm about this.

Saying he hopes that this issue can be resolved diplomatically, Assistant Secretary Lord warned that the United States is prepared to take a stronger action together with the United Nations or other countries if it is necessary.

1951 'Massacre' by South Forces Detailed

SK0906094293 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
25 May 93 p 13

[Article by correspondent Kim Hyon-tae in Sanchong, South Kyongsang Province: "Will the Truth of the Sanchong-Hamyang Murder Incident Be Disclosed?"]

[Text] The Sanchong-Hamyang, South Kyongsang Province, massacre incident has merged on the surface of history for the first time in 42 years, awaiting the disclosure of its true pictures. The Kochang massacre incident and this incident have been considered to be two representative incidents in which the ROK Armed Forces indiscriminately murdered innocent civilians.

At its special session on 22 May, the Sanchong County, South Kyongsang Province, Council (Speaker Kim Ki-cho) adopted a letter of recommendation calling for an investigation of this incident and the vindication of the victims' honor. This incident is shocking in that as many people as those victimized in the Kochang incident were sacrificed in this incident, that the incident has been completely covered up for a long time, and that the letter of recommendation was based on the witnesses' vivid accounts of the incident.

Councilman Kang Chong-hui (52, Kumso-myong) and Councilman Cho Kye-hwan (55, Sichon-myong) jointly presented a draft letter of recommendation to the county council. The letter says: The Third Battalion (Commander Han Tong-sok) of the Ninth Regiment of the 11th Division of the ROK Armed Forces murdered approximately 930 innocent civilians in 12 towns in Kumso-myong and Sichon-myong of Sanchong County and Yurim-myong of Hamyang County on 8 February (2 January by the lunar calendar) 1951. This battalion went to Kochang two days later.

Those two councilmen stated: "This battalion, which was moving to ferret out communist bandits, murdered

183 old men, women, and children in Sichon-myong. It, then, dragged approximately 380 residents of Kahyon and Chomchon to Panggok-ri, Kumso-myong and murdered them. They also murdered approximately 370 residents in Soju, Songok, and Jigok of Yurim-myong."

According to those two councilmen, the Kochang massacre incident (719 people killed), which took place two days after the Sanchong-Hamyang incident, aroused public criticism among people at that time, a fact-finding team from the National Assembly was dispatched to the spot, and those involved in the massacre were imprisoned. However, the massacre incident has not been made public and buried behind the history because there was no survivor from the massacre and because their bereaved families had been under the government's pressure.

In the period of the contemporary Democratic Party-led government established after the 19 April revolution in 1960 Min Chi-chae (the deceased), councilman of the contemporary South Kyongsang Provincial Council, urged the government to carry out investigations to find out the truth of the massacre. However, after the 16 May military coup d'etat in 1961 he was put into jail, branded as a procommunist element.

In 1986 the bereaved families of the massacre petitioned the government and the National Assembly on many occasions for a investigation into the truth of the massacre. Despite their petitions, however, neither the honor of the victims and their bereaved families has been restored, nor the bereaved families' petition calling for establishing a joint cemetery and a memorial tower for the victims has been achieved.

It has been learned that the present government is considering steps to restore the honor of the victims and their bereaved families and to compensate them. But, it is said that the government will not enact a special law for this. Accordingly, the Sanchon County Council will submit an official petition to the government and the National Assembly on 26 May.

The county councilmen stressed: The past military regimes, which attached great importance only to the honor of the ROK Armed Forces, have hidden the truth of history by suppressing the bereaved families. The time has come when the government should re-evaluate the Sanchon-Hamyang massacre and should reveal its truth. Along with this, the honor of the slaughtered innocent people should be restored, the compensations for the victims should be paid to their bereaved families, and a joint cemetery and a memorial tower for the victims should be established.

NSP Alleges DPRK To Attempt Opium Smuggling

SK0806035993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0310 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea's top intelligence agency, treating drug abuse as a threat to

national security, will set up a drug information center to strengthen its capabilities to collect information on narcotics movements worldwide. The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] had information that North Korea would expand its production of raw opium to around 30 tons this year and that North Korea might try to smuggle opium into South Korea, an NSP spokesman said Tuesday.

North Korea produced 3 tons of opium last year on the orders of Kim Chong-il, son and heir-designate of President Kim Il-song, to try and earn some desperately needed foreign currency, the NSP official said. It has grown poppies in mountainous regions of the country from the mid-1980s and has concentrated on its cultivation since August 1989 at the orders of the junior Kim.

As a result, the amount of land growing opium poppies has increased 10-fold to 12.8 million pyong (42.24 million square meters) this year from 1.3 million pyongs last year. In particular, North Korea is now increasing the opium refining capacity of its Nanam pharmaceutical factory from 3,000 kilograms to 100 tons a year, the NSP spokesman said. North Korea had been shipping drugs to its embassies through the Hong Kong-Dubai trafficking route since the mid-1980s, he said, creating friction with host countries 23 times because of drug dealing by its diplomats.

South Korea is increasingly exposed to international drug cartels or dealers, who are attempting to turn the country into a new waystation on their supply routes. Last year, South Korean customs agents seized 83.3 kilograms of illegal drugs on 33 occasions, up from 12.2 kilograms on 31 occasions in 1991 and 5.5 kilograms on nine occasions in 1990.

Student Group Proposes Talks With North Students

SK0706090493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0821 GMT
7 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 7 (YONHAP)—Hanchongnyon, the Korean Federation of University Student Councils, proposed talks with the government Monday on plans to meet with North Korean student representatives in the Truce Village of Panmunjom on Saturday. In its inauguration ceremony May 30, South Korea's largest student organization decided to hold inter-Korean talks as part of efforts toward reunification and for sisterhood ties with a North Korean student committee, a Hanchongnyon spokesman said.

The group has applied for preliminary talks on Wednesday and Friday with the National Unification Board, and the Education and Justice Ministries to discuss its desires, he said. The federation would do its best to cooperate with the Seoul government, but would push forward with Saturday's meeting even without government approval, he said.

Seoul Rejects Student Request

SK0806113593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1047 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 8 (YONHAP)—The government has decided not to allow the plan of the National Alliance of College Student Organizations (Hanchongnyon) to meet North Korean student leaders at Panmunjom on June 12. The Education Ministry, however, plans to encourage individual universities and colleges to have pure academic exchanges with North Korean campuses.

Hanchongnyon planned to have a meeting with North Korean student leaders to discuss the possible conclusion of sisterhood ties between South and North Korean students and the issue of arranging a joint inter-Korean student festival. At a meeting of college officials on Tuesday, the ministry warned that the government would not condone any illegal acts by students such as violent demonstration and unlawful conducts committed under the cloak of the promotion of unification.

The Education Ministry also told colleges not to allow student bodies to run profit-seeking projects any more in campuses such as the operation of vending machines. "From the second semester, college authorities should take over those businesses hitherto run by student bodies and use the profits accruing therefrom for the wellbeing of students," the ministry said. In another step, the ministry said it would no longer recognize off-class days caused by various student rallies or other activities in a move to help foster an atmosphere for harder work by students.

DPRK 'Top' Gold Supplier for South

SK0706102893 Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 5 Jun 93 p 2

[Text] Since North Korean gold has been brought into the ROK in large quantities, North Korea has become the main gold supplier for the ROK. As of the end of April, the total amount of North Korean gold brought into the ROK since March 1991, when North Korean gold was brought in for the first time, has reached 7,012.3 kg (\$76,711,000).

In 1991, 1,515 kg (\$17,537,000) of North Korean gold was brought into our country, 3,472 kg (\$37,193,000) was brought into our country in 1992, and 2025.3 kg (\$21,980,000) was brought in from January to April 1993. The amount of North Korean gold brought in during the first four months of this year accounts not only for 60 percent of the total amount of North Korean gold brought in last year, but for 43.2 percent of the total amount of gold imports during the same period, from January to April 1993 (4,687 kg, \$50,091,000).

North Korea has rapidly emerged as our main gold supplier, surpassing Australia (1,380 kg, \$11,110,000) and Switzerland (913 kg, \$9,932,000). Out of all the materials brought in from North Korea during the first four months of this year amounting to \$52,869,000, gold

accounts for 41.6 percent of those materials. This shows that gold is the main trade item with North Korea.

Samsung Products and Lucky-Goldstar are the companies which are currently engaged in bringing North Korean gold into the ROK. Lucky-Goldstar had brought more into the country than Samsung until 1992. Since this January, however, Samsung has brought in about 1,300 kg of North Korean gold, 600 kg more than Lucky-Goldstar. According to a relevant businessman, more than 5,000 kg of North Korean gold will likely be brought in this year.

Foreign Minister Begins 6-17 Jun European Tour

SK0606072193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0549 GMT
6 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu departed from Seoul Sunday morning to visit five European countries. The June 6-17 trip covers Russia, Poland, France, Britain and Austria and it is his first visit to Europe since he became foreign minister in February.

Han is to attend the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in June 14-15 and to give a keynote speech. He is to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Hans Blix, secretary-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, in Vienna and to consult on the North Korea's nuclear development.

Discusses DPRK With Yeltsin

SK0906024093 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean
9 Jun 93 p 1

[By correspondent Pak Tu-sik from Moscow]

[Text] Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, while on a visit to Russia, paid President Yeltsin a courtesy call on the morning of 8 June in the Kremlin and conveyed to him a personal letter from President Kim Yong-sam asking for Russia's continued cooperation in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. President Yeltsin expressed his thanks and conveyed to the foreign minister an official letter inviting President Kim Yong-sam to visit Russia. He said he hoped President Kim would visit Russia in the near future.

To this, Foreign Minister Han said that "we cannot rule out the possibility of President Kim visiting Russia within this year." Thus, hinting at the possibility of initiating early diplomatic negotiations for President Kim to visit Russia.

According to a source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "the issue of President Kim's participation in the UN General Assembly session in September and his subsequent visit to the United States is currently being reviewed." The source added that "President Kim may be able to visit Russia after that, either around the end of this year, or early next year."

At the meeting with Foreign Minister Han, President Yeltsin also said: Russia is greatly interested in developing partnership relations [tongbanja kwangye] with the ROK. Russia is promoting balanced diplomacy toward the East and the West and places great importance in cooperation with the Asian-Pacific region."

President Yeltsin said that "Russia stopped providing nuclear technologies to North Korea a long time ago" [imi oraejonbuto pukhane taehan haekkisul chiwonul chungdanhawatta] and vowed that "Russia will make efforts for a nuclear-free North Korea" [haekmugi opnun pukhane toedorok noryok hagetta]. He then said that "Russia will encourage the functions [kinungul changuyo] of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] so that the IAEA can keep its watch [kamsi] over North Korea's nuclear development."

Noting that "many issues need to be resolved in the future in order to resolve the issue of North Korea's withdrawal from the Nonproliferation Treaty, Foreign Minister Han asked that Russia continue to cooperate and make joint efforts for this. In connection with the multilateral security system [taja anbochegye] in Northeast Asia, Minister Han said that "we welcome Russia's participation in the multilateral cooperation [hyopryok] system in Northeast Asia which we are now pursuing."

Minister Han will officially visit Poland until 10 June. He will meet President Walesa and invite him to visit the ROK this year.

'Officials': Seoul To Seek EC Framework Accord

SK0806094693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0833 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea will push for a framework accord with the European Community, establishing summits and regular high-level political and economic negotiations, Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. It was hoped to conclude the accord at the fourth Korea-EC monitoring meeting in Brussels on June 29-30, the officials said. The bilateral pact would be a byproduct of a communication the EC Council adopted on Korea-EC relations Tuesday, recognizing the Asian country's potential as a trade and economic partner.

The 10-point communication widens cooperation talks from the current economic issues to political, social and cultural areas. It opens the way for the bilateral agreement, which customarily defines basic relations between the two sides, establishes regular high-level negotiation channels, and forms separate committees on pending issues like the telecommunications market, maritime market and intellectual property rights protection. It also opens the way for summit meetings.

Seoul hoped to settle these points at the monitoring meeting, the officials said. The EC has two types of accords with its trade partners—joint declarations, which it has signed with only the United States, Japan

and Canada, and framework agreements, which it has signed with developing countries.

The officials said it was not yet set which of the two Korea would conclude with the EC [as received]. The Foreign Ministry immediately welcomed the adoption of the communication, saying it would invite positive efforts on both sides for building a mutual relationship. "It is hoped that the EC will take corresponding measures such as easing various import restrictions on Korean products to expand two-way trade volume and to develop Korea-EC relations into a mature partnership," the ministry statement said.

Seoul, Athens Sign Investment Guarantee Pact

SK0506072493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0534 GMT
5 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 5 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Greece have initiated an investment guarantee pact in Athens giving each other most-favored nation status and setting regulations on compensation and dispute settlement, the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday. Seoul officials hope the 12-point agreement will widen investment opportunities in Greece and in the European Community, of which Athens is a member, a ministry spokesman said.

The two countries were preparing to conclude a pact on avoidance of double taxation, he said. Seoul has not yet made any investment in greece, but bilateral trade neared 400 million U.S. dollars last year—170 million dollars of exports and 225 million dollars in imports.

PRC Lawmaker Views Environmental Ties With Seoul

SK0906043593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT
9 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 9 (YONHAP)—A senior Chinese lawmaker said in an exclusive interview Tuesday that he would help form a joint fact-finding group on environmental pollution and exchanges and cooperation if a South Korean and Chinese Parliamentarians Friendship Association was set up. Yang Jike, vice chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee of the Chinese People's Congress Standing Committee, said Seoul and Beijing might improve cooperation in environmental areas with the visit to Seoul of Tian Jiyun, first vice chairman of the Standing Committee.

Yang, here to attend the East Asia and Pacific Parliamentarians' Conference on the Environment and Development (EAPPCED), told YONHAP that private companies of South Korea were desired to take part in construction of hydroelectric power plants in China in an effort to solve China's acid rain problem. As to yellow sand blowing from the inner Mongolian region of China, Yang said China has built a "green great wall," a forest belt designed to stop the sandy wind.

Asked about concrete measures to solve the acid rain problem, Yang said that China recently adopted a new policy to let foreigners invest in energy projects such as conversion of thermoelectric power plants to hydroelectric plants. Thermoelectric power plants are a major cause of the acid rain. The new policy, known "built ownership transfer," entitles foreign investors to run hydroplants for 10 to 15 years before the ownership reverts to China.

PRC Imports Cars Via DPRK To Avoid Duties

SK0906095993 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean
9 Jun 93 p 6

[From the column "Business News"]

[Text] It was learned that some ROK-made cars exported to the PRC are delivered to the PRC via North Korea. This interests us. Relevant businesses say on 8 June that PRC importers, who are close to North Korean public officials, are importing ROK-made cars in the form of a triangle transaction involving South Korea, North Korea, and the PRC. This transaction arrangement was made with North Korea's agreement.

A domestic general trade company official said: "We have been recently asked by a PRC importer to deliver cars to the PRC via North Korea." He added: "Several general trade companies and motor companies hesitate to make this public because this business involves North Korea. These companies, however, have been already exporting a considerable number of cars to the PRC via Naja Port in North Korea." It seems that PRC businesses import ROK-made cars via North Korea is intended to evade high customs duties of 200 to 250 percent imposed by the PRC Government upon finished cars in an effort to regulate their import.

Chongwadae Denies Choe To Be Envoy to PRC

SK0806072993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0709 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 8 (YONHAP)—Chongwadae, the presidential office, denied Tuesday press reports that Rep. Choe Hyong-u of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party was going to China next week as a presidential envoy. It was to be a private visit, the presidential office said. "There can be no presidential envoy without Chongwadae knowing about it and there is no need of an envoy as the Chinese foreign minister had just visited the country," a spokesman said.

Choe, a long-time aide to President Kim Yong-sam, resigned as secretary-general of the ruling party in April over the trouble caused by his son's backdoor entry to college. He is reportedly to leave for China on June 15 and return early next month. Meanwhile, the main opposition Democratic Party said it was shocked by the reports that Kim would send Choe to China as a presidential envoy.

Companies Search for New Latin American Markets

SK0806005793 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
8 Jun 93 p 8

[By staff correspondent Pak Yun-pae]

[Text] Korean companies are all out to make inroads into Latin America in a bid to find new markets in the wake of a prolonged global economic recession and severe competition in major markets such as the U.S., Japan and Europe. Under the slogan of "advance to the lucrative Latin American market," many big business conglomerates take the offensive to sell their goods to the promising region.

Korea's export to Latin America posted a remarkable 72.4 percent growth last year with \$4.96 billion from \$2.87 billion in 1991, according to figures released by the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA). Korea recorded the largest trade surplus in the region last year, compared with other major markets. The surplus amounted to \$2.44 billion last year, the KFTA figures said.

Recognizing the importance of the Latin American market, major business concerns are dispatching top executives to exploring the market potentials, expand their presence and strengthen their marketing activities. They also show keen interest in increasing investment in the region to participate in the region's ambitious reconstruction projects. The Samsung Group held a strategic meeting to make inroads into the Latin American market by summoning its division head in charge of the region in March.

Samsung decided to set up two more subsidiaries in the region including the Peruvian capital of Lima during the second half of this year in order to market its goods to Latin America. The largest Korean group will also hold a trade show in Peru, according to sources close to the group.

Hyundai Corp., a trading arm of the Hyundai Business Group, set up its subsidiary in Santiago, Chile. The company will create another sales firm in Bogota, Colombia, and plans to build a fishery processing plant and take part in developing natural resources by pouring money in the country.

Hyundai already established a local company in Mexico City in March last year to actively penetrate into Latin America. Above all, the most ambitious Korean business conglomerate is Daewoo Group, which put more emphasis on the area. Daewoo Group chairman Kim U-chung made a 14-day visit to Latin America to get a fist-hand assessment on the potentials of such countries as Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina and Peru from March 25.

Kim's trip was aimed at exploring the possibility of exporting cars and electronic goods to those countries and to evaluate the investment potentials as well, a group

spokesman said. Daewoo already set up a sales firm in Peru and Chile last year to sell its compact sedan Tico.

It is expected to create another sales firm in Uruguay in near future. And the group is considering building a largescale production complex in a country among three candidate countries—Mexico, Chile and Peru. The Lucky-Goldstar Group is pressing ahead with a comprehensive plan to advance to the region after its chairman Chon Chin-hwan visited the area in April.

Sunkyong Group also wants to strengthen its marketing strategy in Latin American countries. Its vice chairman Yi Sun-sok toured the countries in February. The group was known to select several projects to participate in forest development and the construction of footwear and textile factories.

Besides, Ssangyong and Hyosung are preparing for their advancement to the emerging market. Korean businessmen will have substantial results from their ambitious efforts to make inroads into the area as many Latin American country are trying to promote economic cooperation with Korean companies by sending trade delegations to attract investment from Korea, industrial sources said.

Prosecutor Summons Ex-UPP Candidate on Election

SK0806080493 Seoul *YONHAP* in English 0555 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 8 (YONHAP)—The Seoul District Prosecutor's Office on Tuesday asked Chong Chu-yong, the former presidential candidate of the United People's Party [UPP], and his son, Rep. Chong Mong-chun, to voluntarily appear Wednesday to answer charges of election law violations. The Chongs were supposed to show up on Tuesday, but since they failed to do so the prosecution asked them to answer the summons on Wednesday, officials said. If they still don't comply with the summons, the authorities are expected to secure their presence by force.

A suit filed against the Chongs charges that they ordered the provision of free pleasure trips for eligible voters and conducted other illegal campaign activities for the Dec. 18 presidential election. Chong Chu-yong claimed through his lawyer, however, that there was no need for him to answer the charges since the election campaign was ordered and carried out in the name of the executive chairman of the United People's Party, Rep. Kim Tong-kil. But the prosecution said the suit was filed against Chong and since the period of prescription for election law violation suits ends on June 17, the authorities may have to seize Chong in person, by force if necessary.

The prosecution, meanwhile, questioned three other former members of the United People's Party who were sued along with the Chongs. They are Rep. Chong Chang-hyon, Kim Yong-il, a former United People's Party secretary general, and Pak Se-yong, a former aide

to Chong Chu-yong. In another development, the prosecution also plans to ask Chong Chu-yong to answer charges filed against him by three members of the new Korea party, complaining that the tycoon-turned-politician defamed their party when he claimed he gave 5 billion won to Rep. Yi Chong-chan when the United People's Party and the New Korea Party agreed to merge.

Ministry To Reduce Number of Military Attaches

SK0806010493 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
8 Jun 93 p 3

[Text] The Defense Ministry has decided to drastically reduce the number of military attaches posted at diplomatic missions abroad. A senior official said yesterday that the ministry made the decision after most mission chiefs called for cutback of military attaches at their recent meeting.

Approximately 70 attaches are now assigned at the diplomatic missions in 39 countries. The ministry is considering slashing the attaches down to about 30 to 40 in number, according to the official.

Many of the mission chiefs also suggested lowering of the attaches' job position grade at the meeting, noting that their high position ranks had sometimes stood in the way of smooth and efficient promotion of businesses. The ministry is therefore reviewing reduction of the attaches' ranks by one to two grades, the official added.

Parts Suppliers' Strikes Threaten Auto Production

SK0706071793 Seoul *YONHAP* in English 0644 GMT
7 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 7 (YONHAP)—Major automakers may have to shut down their production lines because of a series of disputes involving their suppliers, the Korea Automobile Manufacturers Association (KAMA) said Monday. Doowon Precision Industrial Co., the sole supplier of fuel injectors for diesel engines, has not made any deliveries to Hyundai Motor Co., Kia Motors Corp. or Daewoo Motor Co. since contract negotiations with its union broke down on May 17.

The automakers continued assembly using parts in inventory but are on the verge of stopping production of buses and trucks as they have almost run out of parts, KAMA officials said. Adding to their woes, however, Shin Chang Electrics Co., which makes key sets and switches, and several other parts companies are on strike or experiencing disputes.

The KAMA officials predicted a loss of 8,000 vehicles worth 60 billion won (74 million U.S. dollars) and 2,200 worth 13 million dollars in production and exports, respectively, if the disputes at parts companies call a halt to automaking. The parts industry will be saddled with delivery delays worth 26 billion won. They called for action by the government and industry because a halt in production by an automaker could cause business cuts

affecting hundreds of subcontractors. Due to a strike in bumper supplier Apollo Industrial Co. last month, Hyundai had losses of 2,500 cars (20 billion won) in production and 8,000 (48 million dollars) in exports.

Korean automakers raised exports 59.6 percent to 233,000 cars in January-May over the same period last year thanks to the strong Japanese currency and market diversification. They hope to export 550,000 cars, the highest since 1988, this year, but may have difficulty meeting the goal if the disputes are not settled quickly, the KAMA officials said.

Seoul To Standardize Auto Parts Manufacturing

SK0906095693 Seoul *THE KOREA TIMES* in English
9 Jun 93 p 8

[Text] The government will see to it that the number of makers of identical automotive parts is kept at more than two in order to protect the car industry from labor-management disturbances at parts manufacturers. In the meantime, the nation's seven automakers will be encouraged to keep an ample inventory of parts which are supplied by subcontractors prone to labor-management disputes. They will be also allowed to import parts which can not be localized because of the enormous costs that far exceed their economic viability.

The government will push ahead with the standardization of automotive parts in a bid to make them interchangeable and guarantee a stable supply to the seven auto makers. These are among the steps which the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy announced yesterday to facilitate a smooth supply of automotive parts. Some 20,000 parts are generally used for the manufacture of an automobile.

As the seven car makers are able to manufacture 200 different motor vehicles, more than 4 million parts are required to build them. The seven car makers are Hyundai Motor, Kia Motors, Daewoo Motor, Ssangyong Motor, Asia Motors, Daewoo Shipbuilding & Heavy Machinery and Hyundai Precision & Industry.

There are a total of 10,378 automotive parts makers across the country including 2,078 major subcontractors. Of the total, however, only 6,150 manufacture parts, 1,150 of which are major subcontractors. Among the major subcontractors, 708 companies or 61.6 percent supply their goods to only one of the seven car makers.

The ministry said that one-day operational suspension of the seven automakers as a whole results in a 60 billion won loss affecting 8,000 units for the domestic market and a \$13 million in loss (2,200 units) in exports.

Its damage to automotive part makers are 30 billion won in domestic sales and a \$2.4 million in exports.

Last Month, Hyundai, the nation's largest car maker, suffered a 200 billion won loss (25,000 units) in local

sales and a \$48 million loss (8,000) in exports due to labor-management disturbances at its major subcontractor Apollo Industry.

The labor dispute also cost other parts makers 100.6 billion in losses in local sales and \$24 million in losses in exports.

At present, Sinchang Electric and two other parts manufacturers have suspended operations because of labor strikes, thereby threatening the automobile industry as a whole.

For a stable supply of automotive parts, the government has launched a drive to increase the number of markers of the same parts to at least two since 1988. Currently, 978 parts are manufactured by more than two companies compared with 234 parts in 1988. The ministry said that the seven makers will be allowed to import joints, combinations, switches, air conditioners, fuel injectors, bumpers and steering parts.

Company Develops HIV Diagnostic Test

SK0806051893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0236 GMT
8 Jun 93

[Text] Seoul, June 8 (YONHAP)—A highly sensitive AIDS diagnostic kit that uses gene recombinant technology will go on sale in Korea this month, its makers

announced Tuesday. Tong-a Pharmaceutic Co. and the Gene Engineering Research Institute said their second generation elisa kit was an in vitro enzyme immunoassay for the detection of HIV antibodies type 1 and type 2 in human serum or plasma.

The "AIDSIDA I, II" kits will be on sale in clinics and hospitals at prices between 1,000 won and 1,500 won. Development of the kit, two years behind advanced countries, improves on the first-generation kit sold by Tong-a since 1988. The test is highly accurate in detecting the presence of the human immuno-deficiency virus that causes the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

Tong-a says the use of gene recombinant technology eliminates the possibility of infection of staff with the AIDS virus in the manufacturing process. This method reduces production costs 30 percent because it doesn't need separate safety facilities in farming the virus. The domestic AIDS test market is worth 4 billion won (4.9 million U.S. dollars) a year, of which a half are imports, a spokesman said, adding that the new product was expected to contribute to checking HIV proliferation with its high accuracy and low cost.

Burma**Myo Nyunt Addresses National Convention 7 Jun**

*BK0906051593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
0630 GMT 7 Jun 93*

[Opening speech by Lieutenant General Myo Nyunt, chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission, at the National Convention Plenary Session held at the President's compound on Ahlone Road in Rangoon on 7 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed and respected National Convention delegates: I am delighted to meet the delegates from various regions again at this reconvened National Convention. I hope the delegates will be able to carry out their responsibilities here in good health and spirits.

Esteemed delegates: The National Convention delegates are to begin their discussion and coordination on the first chapter heading—basic principles of the state—from the 15 chapter headings, and present the reports on their suggestions. There must be discussions in order to systematically complete the needed points in the chapter heading—basic principles of the state. The discussions on the basic principles of the state in turn should be based on the points related to 14 out of the 15 chapter headings that were proposed by the delegates.

The delegates are to discuss and coordinate to obtain the basic principles on each of these chapter headings and present their suggestions. Actually, the chapter that the delegates are going to discuss is fundamental and important. Once the work on this sector is complete, our journey ahead will be smooth. [passage omitted]

Esteemed delegates: There are many national historical experiences we should take into consideration in coordinating the work among the delegates to lay down the basic principles of the state. I will comment on the objective of the emergence of the true multiparty democracy system. In our country's history, a total of 42 years—a combination of two eras—was a multiparty era. The two eras comprise one of 28 years, from the 1920 GCBA [General Council of Buddhist Association] era to the year of independence in 1948, and one of 14 years from the AFPFL [Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League] era in 1948 to 1962 when the Revolutionary Council era emerged. That period was known as a multiparty era.

Now, from 1988 to 1993—a four-and-a-half to five-year period—is also a period of revitalizing multiparty democracy. Actually, there were flaws and weak points in the one-party system as well as in the multiparty system. In going back to a multiparty system with weak points, it is natural to worry: "once burned, twice cautious." That is why, at present we need to seriously think and consider these factors in order to have a good foundation for the emergence of a genuine multiparty democracy.

When it comes to national politics and party politics, it is necessary to give priority to national politics. It is also necessary to be extremely cautious not to abuse democratic rights and freedoms. Our recent experiences exemplify the emergence of anarchy due to the excessive implementation of democracy.

Esteemed delegates, I will comment on one of the six objectives of the National Convention [nondisintegration of the Union; nondisintegration of national solidarity; perpetuity of national sovereignty; emergence of a genuine multiparty democratic system; development of Lawkapala or eternal principles; participation of the Defense Services in the leading role in national politics in the future]—the promotion of Lawkapala principles of justice, freedom, and equality in the country.

The three Lawkapala principles of justice, freedom, and equality are basic characteristics of the democratic system. Without these principles it will be extremely difficult and almost impossible for democracy to develop. Regarding the first principle, justice refers to justice in social relations, justice in economy, and justice in politics. Regarding the second principle, freedom means freedom of thought, freedom of expression and writing, freedom of belief, freedom of worship, freedom of choosing one's vocation, and freedom of organization. Regarding the third principle, equality means equality in class, equality in opportunity, and equality before the law.

These Lawkapala principles will not flourish on their own. They will only flourish when there is a suitable and conducive environment for them. The Badonma Lotus never blooms in a pond full of unclean water. The Badonma Lotus only blooms in Mondra Pond [mythical pond] filled with clean, clear water. That is why these Lawkapala principles will flourish only in a society where there is an abundance of disciplined, dutiful, and patriotic people. As long as there are many people who behave anarchically and many people like Nga Tay—who does not care about others' deaths as long as he is in good health—then these people and the Lawkapala principles will be like two different paths, the path of iron and the path of mercury.

It must also be kept in mind that we need to be aware of these people and to protect ourselves from them. That is why we have to strive to produce more disciplined, dutiful, and patriotic sons of the country. In prescribing the basic principles to provide rights to the people, the delegates must take into consideration the need to take preventive measures to protect the people from those who might disturb and destroy their lives.

Esteemed delegates: You are probably aware of the direct correlation between one of the six objectives of the National Convention—that of the nondisintegration of the union—and the second chapter heading: basic principles of the organizational structure of the state. In constructing a nation, it is necessary to have a state that is

strong and free of narrow-minded racism and where everyone is proud of being a Myanmar [Burmese] citizen.

I am proud to see that the delegates have opposed true federalism—which caused the crack leading to the disintegration of the union in 1962, and threats of secession. It is necessary to work together to prevent any regions of the Union of Myanmar or any races from conspiring to secede in the future. As for the Defense Services, it will continue to safeguard the three cardinal causes [nondisintegration of the union, nondisintegration of national solidarity, perpetuity of national sovereignty] in the future just as we are doing at present. I would like to assure the delegates that when someone—whoever it may be—conspires to threaten the disintegration of the union we will not just sit idly by and watch. The Myanmar for which we are aspiring is a country where the Lawkapala principles of justice, freedom, and equality flourish. In a country where the noble and correct state policy and the basic principles of the state are exercised, it is not only the responsibility of the Defense Services, but it is also the duty of all patriots to remove any reactionary elements that are working for the country's disintegration.

It will be necessary to consider and allow some of the indigenous national people to enjoy the rights they are entitled to, especially that of the right to autonomy [ko-paing okchok akhwint ayay dwe]. Furthermore, it is evident to any thinking person that it would be unfair to only allow the people in the states to exercise their legislative, administrative, and judicial rights while the people in the divisions are prevented from acquiring these rights or are not given these rights. [passage omitted citing examples]

Therefore, it is concluded that it would certainly be appropriate to prescribe the existing seven states and seven divisions as major regions which are equal in status. While on this matter, I would like to suggest that the current names of the states and divisions be changed in order to be more pragmatic and to promote amity and unity among the national people. It is rather narrow-minded to affix names of races to states where many races reside. It also implies disregard for and denigration of other races who reside in the state, but whose racial name has not been affixed to the name of the state. As everyone knows, there are no countries in the world having integral states named after indigenous races. On the other hand, there are countries named after races and they face an endless series of crises. For instance, in the United States where there are 51 [as heard] states, none of these have been granted statehood on the grounds of race or have state names based on race.

Therefore, in the future Myanmar, we believe that it would be more appropriate and desirable to have names such as Kambawza [former name for Shan State], Gadarawadi [former name for Kayah State], Danyawadi [former name for Arakan State], Ramanya [former name for Mon State], Okka [former name for Pegu Division],

Dagon [former name for Rangoon Division], and Yadanabon [former name for Mandalay].

Esteemed delegates: I would like to point out a few matters that will help in laying down the basic principles for the chapter heading on the head of state. The position of president has been a ceremonial post for the last 45 years since independence in our country. The power of the president in administration is minimal. The only outstanding power of the president has been to pardon those serving sentences. During the multiparty era, the real power was held by the prime minister. However, the prime minister, who is responsible to the Parliament, can face a vote of no confidence at any time. Furthermore, from international experience it is evident that in a coalition government—a prime minister who forms a government after securing the support of various parties—cannot freely serve the interests of the country.

Therefore, the national leader who will lead the future Myanmar should be one with vast experience in politics, administration, and economic and defense matters. He should also be able to carry out his responsibilities without any constraints in working for the development of the country. We believe the national leader should have full rights and powers like the executives of major countries that are developed politically and economically. And so, the time has come to think seriously about whether we should adopt a fully empowered presidential administrative system. [passage omitted]

It will also be necessary to discuss, suggest, and prescribe the basic principles for the sixth objective of the current National Convention—the leading role for the Defense Services in national politics in the future country. It will be necessary to lay down the principle for areas of leadership in national politics in the future country in order to determine the number of representatives from the Defense Services in the legislative sector and the number and manner of representation of the Defense Services in the administrative sector from the district to the central level.

Furthermore, it will be necessary to lay down the basic principles to determine the rights of the Defense Services which would enable it to maintain the military's capability and internal solidarity; to continue to achieve successes in accordance with the noble tradition of the Defense Services; and to sustain its ability to repulse internal insurgency and external threat and aggression which can befall the nation at any time.

Esteemed delegates: Suggestions are to be made on one of the chapter headings on provisions for the emergency period. [passage omitted citing speech by General Aung San] It will be necessary to prescribe in advance the scope of power of the commander in chief of the Defense Services in times of emergency. It will also be necessary to prevent such emergencies. However, when an emergency arises, it will certainly be necessary to transfer full

powers to the person who is genuinely capable of saving them from the dreadful situation. [passage omitted on constitutional history]

Esteemed delegates: I conclude my speech by appealing to the delegates to actively and regularly hold meetings, to consult and work in unity, and to make concessions. [applause]

Railway Minister Leaves for PRC Study Tour

BK0306091293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] A Burmese delegation led by U Win Sein, minister of rail transportation, left this afternoon by air for the People's Republic of China at the invitation of the PRC Ministry of Railways.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by U Than Shwe, minister of industry-2; U Soe Tha, minister of communications, posts, and telegraph; Mr. Liang Feng, PRC ambassador to Myanmar [Burma] and responsible officials; departmental authorities from the Ministry of Rail Transportation; and relatives and friends.

Minister U Win Sein and party will study work related to locomotives to be purchased by the Myanmar Railway and construction of railway coaches in China.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Commentary on Postelection Cambodian Situation

BK0906102193 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 0800 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] With what can be described as "peaceful elections," the world was hoping that Cambodia was on the verge of democracy and stability after having been subjected to several decades of rule by government which either took power forcibly, or wanting to fill the vacuum in the country's leadership.

The sad thing is that the saga seems to continue in the status quo because of differences of opinions between the two parties that won the most number of seats in polls. The Royalist Party, known by its French acronym of FUNCINPEC, the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia, had outpolled the Cambodian People's Party, CPP, which has been running the government since the ouster of the Khmer Rouge.

When the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC, which considered the elections as free and fair, announced the outcome of the elections, the CPP showed its displeasure by stating that the polls were rigged in some provinces. The head of state and

chairman of Supreme National Council, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, considered it his duty to summon the leaders of the two leading parties—Prince Norodom Ranariddh of FUNCINPEC and Hun Sen of the CPP—for talks to resolve the problem. And it seemed that he had succeeded in his mission. But it came as shock when hardly 24 hours later Sihanouk announced that he was aborting the plan as he had received a letter of dissent from his son Ranariddh.

The plan for a new government, as envisaged by Sihanouk, called for the sharing of power between FUNCINPEC and CPP. Ranariddh may feel that his party, having been declared the victor, should have more power in the coalition government than Sihanouk has proposed. Will Hun Sen and the CPP agree to having a lesser say in the new government? Meanwhile, the Khmer Rouge is lurking in the background waiting to see the outcome of the battle for power between CPP and FUNCINPEC. There is no denying the fact that the Khmer Rouge has been harboring a bitter hatred for the Phnom Penh regime ever since being ousted from power through the Vietnamese invasion and the installation of the Hun Sen government. And now the Khmer Rouge has issued a stern warning to the present ruling party that it must hand over power to the winner of last month's elections or face the threat of continuing warfare. The radical terrorist group, despite boycotting the elections, have also demanded that it be given a role in any government to be formed.

The international community held great hope that the quarter century of political brutality was nearing its end in Cambodia, whose people have suffered enormously through a heavy toll of life and property.

When will the saga come to a peaceful conclusion?

New Attempt To Remove Nation's GSP Privileges

BK0406100093 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 0800 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Station Commentary]

[Text] The American Non-Governmental Organizations, NGO, are at it again. The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, AFL-CIO is making a fresh bid to have Malaysia removed from the list of beneficiaries of the United States Generalized System of Preferences, GSP.

The AFL-CIO had made two previous attempts in 1988 and 1990 to remove Malaysia from the GSP program. The accusation against Malaysia was that there were glaring worker rights violations. Both those attempts failed as the GSP subcommittee which investigated the charges then ruled that the violations were insufficient to merit the withdrawal of Malaysia's GSP privileges.

In its latest suit the AFL-CIO has acquitted most of the charges cited in the previous petition.

The American Labor Center has stated that it is only presenting recent violations. These include the show-cause letters from the Registrar of Societies to the Malaysian Trade Union Congress, MTUC, and the Malaysian Labor Organization, MLO.

The registrar has demanded that the two organizations show cause why they should not be deregistered for bridging their own constitution. It is difficult to see why the AFL-CIO should take attention to the registrar's action. It is what he is there for. His position empowers him to see that all registered societies and organizations function according to rules laid down in the constitution. Any allegation that this is a move by the Malaysian Government to wipe out the country's labor incentives is baseless. Malaysia has always guided itself in seeing that the government and labor organization cooperate with each other in preserving and protecting legitimate worker rights.

The Human Resources Ministry is currently drawing out amendments to the Employment Act 1959, the Trade Union Act 1959 and the Industrial Relations Act 1967. The last major amendments to the acts were made in 1980. Just like then, the government will take into consideration the views of the Council of the Labor Organization in the drafting of the amendments. What is of primary importance is the the status, rights, and privileges of the country's workers.

Malaysia's regular missions abroad, many of them led by the prime minister, Dr. Mahathir, himself, had been aimed not in seeking financial aid but to promote trade and economic cooperation. Leaders of the world, who have visited Malaysia, have commended Malaysia for its concern for and protection of workers' rights.

It is to be hoped that AFL-CIO would judge Malaysia in the same manner.

Western Australia Working To Boost Trade Ties

BK0206142693 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1300 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Western Australia wishes to promote closer bilateral cooperation with Malaysia. (Henry Cowen), the state's deputy chief minister, concurrently trade and industry minister, said this in Kuala Lumpur, adding that bilateral trade must be further expanded. Western Australia is interested in food processing, raw material processing, and high-quality commodity goods. (Cowen) said he was highly satisfied with his talks with a group of Malaysian businessmen, factory owners, and Selangor Chief Minister Tan Sri Mohamed Haji Mohamed Said.

The Australian visitor, currently on a three-day visit to Malaysia, is scheduled to meet with Johor state officials tomorrow to discuss ways to boost bilateral trade ties.

Australia Offers Ventures To Build Patrol Boats

BK0306075993 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0748 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, June 3 (OANA—BERNAMA)—Australia is keen to have joint-ventures with Malaysia, especially in the building of patrol boats for the Navy, its defence minister, Senator Robert F. Ray, said Thursday.

Senator Ray, who is on a three-day visit here, called on Malaysia's defence minister, Najib Razak, here Thursday morning.

Najib told reporters after the meeting that the project was still at discussing stage and would depend on the country's financial position.

Other offers made by Australia were the exchange of officers and expertise and the supply of equipment for patrol boats.

Najib said so far 36 shipbuilding companies throughout the world had shown interest in building patrol boats for Malaysia.

However, the Australian offer is unique because it comes from their Defence Ministry, he said.

Mahathir: BN 'Will Make' Sabah Into Rich State

BK3005092693 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 0800 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir has given the undertaking that the Federal Government will make Sabah the richest state in Malaysia again if the Barisan Nasional [BN] is returned to power there. The prime minister said the BN Government would administer Sabah into a developed state just like it had brought development and wealth to the country.

He said this when opening the second general assembly of the Liberal Democratic Party, LDP, in Kota Kinabalu today. Acknowledging that Sabah had wealth, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said the state needed an effective administration in place of the Party Bersatu Sabah, PBS, [United Sabah Party] which he said could not deliver.

He urged the people of Sabah to support the BN component parties in the state at every by-election and election to enable the BN fulfill its pledge. He also said that the Federal Government will ensure that the state government, administered by the BN, receive adequate assistance for development.

Singapore

Defense Minister Receives Australian Counterpart

BK0406144293 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] The Australian minister for defense, Mr. Robert Ray, who is in Singapore on a one-day visit, called on the

defense minister, Dr. Yeo Ning Hong, at the Ministry of Defense this afternoon. Mr. Ray was (also hosted for lunch) by Dr. Yeo. Mr. Ray arrived in Singapore this morning and he will leave for London tonight.

Cambodia

KR Spokesman Justifies Recent Violence

BK0806133893 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The Khmer Rouge spokesman asserted once again that all four Cambodian factions should reconcile to form a government under Prince Sihanouk. Mak Ben, the spokesman of the Khmer Rouge's Party of Democratic Kampuchea, justified recent violence by saying that the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia failed to comply with the Paris peace agreement which called for it to supervise total withdrawal of Vietnamese soldiers from Cambodia. Moreover, the Vietnamese puppet government in Phnom Penh has also imposed conditions to continue its administration. The Khmer Rouge spokesman said violence by his faction served to protect Cambodian national interests from foreign interference.

During the news conference, Mak Ben appealed to the Supreme National Council to play a greater role in forming a government along the line of Prince Sihanouk's plan to achieve reconciliation among all four Cambodian factions, which he said was the only way to create democracy in Cambodia.

Sihanouk Speaks on SNC, Assembly Meetings

BK0806133593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 8 Jun 93

[“Speech by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, to compatriots;” place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the revered two supreme patriarchs, venerables, abbots, and monks. Greetings to nuns, elders, compatriots, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all beloved compatriots.

Today I am honored to make the following address:

Today I am honored to have received His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Chea Sim and H.E. Chairman Hun Sen of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] of the State of Cambodia [SOC], for a brotherly meeting and held cordial talks as family members with the two chairmen. We held an in-depth discussion on problems we should pay attention to, those which are important to our Cambodian nation, motherland, people, and country.

The first issue is formation of the Cambodian national government. H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, and their parties—which are major

parties, the CPP and the SOC, who, like hundreds of thousands of children and people expressed their views a few days ago in Phnom Penh, our noble city, and in our Cambodian provinces—have asked that the prime minister to stay and help reconcile, unite, and save the nation to prevent instability, restore stability, reconcile Cambodians, prevent insecurity and restore security, and work together to build and defend the nation. This government is the Cambodian National Government for uniting the nation. I have failed to do this.

I have again informed Their Excellencies Chea Sim and Hun Sen this morning that this definitely cannot be done because there are many obstacles. For example, there is a group of Cambodians, a group of Cambodian politicians, and some Cambodian intellectuals who have categorically voiced their opposition. Some Cambodian personalities dare to insult me saying that I am greedy for power and rank, and that I practice feudalism. They did this unjustly and insolently. Some Cambodians said that Prince Sihanouk did not vote; people did not vote for him, and now he has usurped power from this or that party. I have been accused of not respecting the people's will, the people's votes, and democracy. I have been accused of allowing this or that group to hold power and illegitimately usurp power from others contrary to the 1991 Paris agreement.

The United States, the biggest superpower in the world with no one comparable to it, categorically opposes the government Sihanouk set up and headed. It absolutely does not allow Sihanouk to have power. It says that Sihanouk should not be in power because it would violate the constitution and the Paris agreement. One segment of UNTAC, and not Akashi—who is a good man—is also voicing its opposition, saying that the prince has violated the Paris agreement and the constitution. There is no constitution yet, but they say that I have violated the constitution.

About my agreement to head this national conciliation government called the Cambodian National Government. It is not I who wants to hold this position. I have never asked for power for myself. I have only sought peace for the people, the nation, independence and territorial integrity, and peace, and to assist in social and cultural affairs and in national construction without asking for power.

This government issue came about because of a request from H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and H.E. Chairman Hun Sen on behalf of the CPP and the SOC. So, it was not I, Norodom Sihanouk, who wants power to usurp others' power. Individuals, such as one from Australia, (Collin Pratt), even wrote a letter insulting my wife for colluding with the SOC and Prince Chakrapong to usurp power from Prince Ranariddh. The letter was full of insults against my honor and my wife's honor. My wife was not involved in this at all as she dared not attend the discussion. The discussion was among men and I listened to Chea Sim and Hun Sen. Chakrapong was also

visiting me. That was all. My wife was not included in such major state affairs because she has no political function.

So, because there is opposition from some Cambodians, some foreigners, UNTAC, and the United States. I would like to once again stress that I cannot form this government. From now on, we have to resolve the issue in accordance with the Paris agreement. If we deviate from this, rocks will fall on me. This morning I explained this to H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen.

The second issue is the election. The CPP and the SOC say they have a lot of evidence showing that the election organized by UNTAC last month was not proper. Therefore, the CPP and the SOC reject and cannot recognize the election result as fair. UNTAC, with Yasushi Akashi as head, will on 10 June declare the result of the election and say that the election it has organized, despite the fact that the election is not 100 percent proper, is considered fair and free and sufficiently free and just. UNTAC and the United Nations on 10 June will declare that the entire Cambodian nation should accept that the election is fair.

As SNC chairman, I cannot oppose this. For this reason, I have asked H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, the CPP, and the SOC, to forgive me. I have to go along with UNTAC and the United Nations because I do not know whether the election was proper or not. I was not involved in this. I am neutral and outside the election framework. I do not know whether the election was proper or not.

However, I have promised the United Nations, UNTAC, and Yasushi Akashi that if they declare it as proper, I have to admit that it is so because I cannot oppose the United Nations. For this reason, I beg the children in the SOC and the CPP to forgive me. I have to go along with UNTAC and the United Nations; if they declare that the result is valid, I have to go along with them.

However, the SOC and the CPP have the right to protest further in accordance with the law if they do not agree that the election was fair. They can do so in accordance with their rights and freedom. The children in the SOC and the CPP can make their protest. However they do this, I dare not object to it. As for saying whether this is right or wrong, I also cannot say. I cannot pass judgment.

The third issue concerns 14 June. On 10 June, the result of the general election in Cambodia will be declared valid. UNTAC will make this announcement and on 14 June will ask the head of state and SNC chairman, that is Norodom Sihanouk, to open the Constituent Assembly which will become the National Assembly after a constitution is promulgated for the nation.

So, on 14 June Akashi will accompany Prince Norodom Sihanouk to open the first session of the Constituent Assembly. This will be at 0900 at the building which has housed the National Assembly, near the Royal Palace.

Now for the SOC and the CPP. This morning I met the two chairmen, Chea Sim and Hun Sen. I begged them... [changes thought] ...Akashi also begged and asked Prince Sihanouk to talk H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen into sending people's deputies of the CPP who were elected by the people to join other parties that also have deputies to the great and historic occasion to inaugurate the Constituent Assembly on 14 June.

H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen have frequently told me of their support, every year, since I returned home. I have received support from the CPP and the SOC, with H.E. Chea Sim, H.E. Heng Samrin, and H.E. Hun Sen as noble leaders. They have told me that they will follow me; they will follow me when I need them.

So, this morning I asked the children in the SOC and the CPP if they can accompany me to open the assembly. H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen agreed that they can. If the prince wants the children and people's deputies from the SOC, who have been elected by the people, to accompany him to inaugurate the constituent assembly, they will do so. They dare not argue with me.

However, they have stressed that they are going to the Constituent Assembly on 14 June because the prince father wants them to do so; they dare not say no. But they want to tell UNTAC that they do not listen to UNTAC because it did not behave properly in organizing the election and in counting the ballots. Therefore, the SOC and the CPP do not accept that UNTAC did a proper job concerning the election. So, the fact that they are going to the National Assembly does not mean that they submit themselves to UNTAC or this or that party; they just want to follow the prince father. Since I have asked for this, they will oblige.

Furthermore, the prince father asks that there be no demonstrations on 10 June, the day UNTAC will declare the election result, and on 14 June when UNTAC opens the first session of the Constituent Assembly. I have asked H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen to please ensure that there be no demonstrations; please stay calm in order to maintain peace and national solidarity. H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen have promised to inform compatriots and the people to remain calm. This is because the prince father has asked that his beloved children remain peaceful and calm for the sake of the nation and the motherland.

I would like to take this opportunity to express thanks to the three excellency chairmen, namely Chairman Chea Sim, Chairman Heng Samrin, and Chairman Hun Sen, and all the children in the CPP and the SOC, for agreeing to my request. As for your rights and freedoms to oppose UNTAC and to seek justice with this or that party in the National Assembly, it is up to you, children; I have no power to stop you. However, in our society and nation, we should maintain peace and calm.

I have frequently asked this of the Khmer Rouge. Children in the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], please be sympathetic with me. Do not provoke war,

instability, and insecurity. Please let there be security, calm, and solidarity among our revered and beloved people and citizens who have suffered for so long, since Lon Nol's coup in 1970. It has been over 23 years. It has been very hard.

All of us, patriots, regardless of groups and parties, please use peaceful means. Peaceful means should be used in arguments to seek justice. Do not use violence. Do not use weapons.

So, thank you to the three chairmen and all the children in the CPP and the SOC for listening to me. Also, thanks to the children in the PDK who, two days ago, wrote to me saying that they will comply with Samdwech Euv's request. That was H.E. Khieu Samphan, PDK chairman, writing to me. I would like to thank H.E. Khieu Samphan and the PDK. Thanks to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. Thanks to H.E. Samdech Son Sann, chairman of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, who also wrote to me and agreed to comply with the prince father's request for peace and peaceful means.

Therefore, thank you children in all parties who agree to comply and not use violence and weapons, but will instead use non-violence and peaceful means in accordance with our liberal democracy doctrine.

The last issue is food supplies. I would like to inform the children in the SOC and the CPP, in the SOC administration, the SOC Armed Forces, and the SOC police, that I have talked about this with Akashi, France, and China, our great friends, and have asked them for assistance. What kind of aid? It is about salaries, not a lot but enough for you to feed your families during this transitional period. Akashi has promised to help me, to get the international community to provide aid at my request. The World Bank, too, will help us. However, if this or that party in the assembly objects, it will be more difficult.

However, concerning aid to the administration, the Armed Forces, and the police, there will be no problem; some assistance will be provided. I have informed H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen about this. Aid will be provided if H.E. Chea Sim and H.E. Hun Sen show that they are sensible. For example, if they do not cause serious incidents on 10 June, if there are no demonstrations, and if we remain calm on the 10th; and also if they accompany me on the 14th to open the National Assembly.

If it is shown that we are sensible, the international community will help our administration, Armed Forces, and police. For the riel currency, too, if there is no objection from this or that party that won seats in the election, aid will also be provided to stop our currency from further devaluation and to spare our poor people hardship due to rising prices.

I have discussed this with others and have started working on it already. This work will resume tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. This is for the information of the two supreme patriarchs, venerables, abbots, the clergy, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

This is the end of my report. May the triple jewels look after the clergy, nuns, elders, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren inside and outside the country. May you enjoy the five Buddhist blessings: longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment.

Thank you.

Spokesman Explains SOC Stand on Coalition Government

BK0806142793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Khieu Kanharit, spokesman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government, held his weekly press briefing at Sakal Muoy Hotel on the morning of 8 June. Several local and foreign journalists as well as representatives of foreign embassies in Phnom Penh were present.

The Thai newspaper THE NATION wrote in a recent issue that if a coalition government were formed, the SOC would stop balking at the result of the elections. Mr. Khieu Kanharit rejected the allegation and said that the report was incorrect because the formation of a coalition government is an issue between Cambodians whereas the irregularities in the elections are an issue between the people's party and UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia].

Concerning the formation of this coalition government, Mr. Khieu Kanharit stressed: We do not accept the inclusion of the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer Rouge may be merely a party within the legal framework if they agree to disarm and disband themselves.

Dealing with the possibility of riots, Mr. Khieu Kanhait stated: So far our Armed Forces and policemen have remained calm after we have talked to them. Kandal Province seems to be the hotbed of such eventualities. Most of these cases involve disputes over houses and land or building houses on public land.

Answering questions, Mr. Khieu Kanharit said that if the United Nations forces the SOC to accept the result of the elections, it will be a victory for UNTAC but there will be [words indistinct].

Ranariddh Arrives in Phnom Penh, To Meet Sihanouk

BK0906053693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0516 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] PHNOM PENH, June 9 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, angry at the United Nations which encouraged him to try again to form a new government after

giving it a chilly reception the first time, said Wednesday he had learned his lesson and would refuse.

"I absolutely refuse to undertake a similar experience in the present and in the future," Prince Sihanouk said in a statement. "I have learned my lesson."

The prince tried unsuccessfully last week to form a coalition government with himself as premier and the leaders of the government and the opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] party as his deputies. But the move fell through just hours later after it was met with criticism at the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), opposition in Washington, and reservations by opposition FUNCINPEC leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Prince Ranariddh arrived in Phnom Penh under heavy security Wednesday to undertake discussions with his father on forming the coalition. His motorcade whizzed past photographers, who were not allowed to enter the grounds of the airport during his arrival. He could not be seen through the tinted glass. He flew in a private plane to central Kompong Chhnang airport, then transferred to a U.N. helicopter for the final leg of the journey, U.N. officials at the airport said.

UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt had called on the Cambodian parties to "intensify negotiations" on the eve of the announcement of final election results, which would give FUNCINPEC the victory but without an absolute majority.

"Prince Sihanouk was unquestionably called to lead an interim joint administration and his leadership role was regarded as a key to a peaceful transition," Falt said.

Prince Sihanouk's statement was a photocopy of Falt's remarks, with the prince's handwritten response below it and in the margins.

"I must at all costs respect the letter of the Paris accords and avoid constitutional coups," the prince said.

An unidentified UNTAC official had criticised Prince Sihanouk's efforts as amounting to a constitutional coup immediately following the announcement because there was nothing in the Paris agreement, which ended Cambodia's civil war and set up UNTAC, that made it legal.

The prince said he would leave the formation of a coalition to the new national assembly, which is due to convene June 14.

"It is now the duty of others—UNTAC, United Nations, U.S. and others—to attempt a 'constitutional coup' in Cambodia, if that makes them happy," Prince Sihanouk said.

The prince also met with about 40 senior Phnom Penh government military officials, including Defense Minister Tie Banh and his deputy generals, Pol Saroeun and Ke Kimyan.

"We assured him we would not create demonstrations or violence during the meeting of the national assembly," government military spokesman General Pan Thai said.

UNTAC armoured personnel carriers and heavily armed troops patrolled outside the palace during the meeting.

The prince went on state-run radio and television late Tuesday to appeal to the military to remain calm over the election result. He said he had asked UNTAC, foreign countries and world lending institutions to grant immediate assistance to pay civil servants, soldiers and police so as not to provoke civil unrest.

UN Refuses Inquiry Into CPP Claims of Vote Fraud

BK0906111793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 9 Jun 93

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] Phnom Penh, June 9 (AFP)—The United Nations refused Wednesday the Phnom Penh government's demand to set up an independent inquiry board to look into allegations of irregularities in the recent U.N. elections, saying there was no evidence of fraud. A letter from U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi to government Cambodian People's Party (CPP) President Chea Sim said the result of the May 23-28 elections were "fair and acceptable."

The Phnom Penh government had said Sunday it would accept its defeat at the polls only if an independent inquiry board it demanded found no allegations of wrong-doing. Government spokesman Khieu Kanharit said he did not have an immediate response to the rejection, but said high-level meetings were taking place.

The opposition FUNCINPEC party won the election without an absolute majority and must join a coalition with the CPP in order to pass a constitution. Details of the coalition are still being worked out.

Akashi called it "unnecessary and redundant to establish yet another mechanism to further verify the overall correctness of the electoral process." It had already rejected the CPP's previous call for new elections in four areas in a lengthy document drawn up by UNTAC electoral chief Reginald Austin, who found slight irregularities but nothing that affected the outcome of the vote.

"Furthermore, I must point out that the result at present indicates that some 250,000 votes separate the two major parties," Akashi said. "To the extent that it is being suggested that such a margin was produced not by an expression of the will of the people, but rather by some kind of 'fraud,' I regard it as an unacceptable suggestion which I reject unequivocally."

He said it was unthinkable that the government should question the professionalism, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations.

"No credible evidence has been put forward to support such a suggestion, and nor has any such evidence been detected by any of the international observers, diplomatic or otherwise, who have been in Cambodia," Akashi wrote. In fact, Akashi turned the table on the government, reminding it of the unsatisfactory political environment ahead of the election largely resulting from government intimidation.

"The obstruction of political parties' right to communicate with and even to travel safely to meet with the Cambodian public left a great deal to be desired," Akashi said.

A separate letter from Austin systematically dealt with specifics of the CPP allegations, and dismissed all of them.

"It needs to be emphasized that no evidence has been put forward by the Cambodian People's Party of any interference with ballot materials in safe havens," Austin said. The government had claimed that UNTAC's refusal to allow it to guard ballot boxes in "safe havens" overnight left open the possibility for fraud.

UNTAC was to have made the results of the election final on Wednesday, but U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said the final figures would not be released until Thursday.

The Cambodian factions were scheduled to meet under U.N. supervision as the Supreme National Council (SNC) on Thursday. Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, who left the capital for good in April, excused himself from the meeting, a diplomatic source said.

Hun Sen Affirms Stance on Polls at 29 May Meeting

BK0906143593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] On 29 May, at the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, His Excellency Hun Sen, on behalf of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and the State of Cambodia [SOC], made it clear that the election in Cambodia, organized and supervised by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], was democratic and free, and that there were no threats or intimidation. However, the CPP and the SOC have never recognized that this election was fair and just. For this reason, the CPP and the SOC have successively protested to UNTAC for fairness and justice.

Sihanouk Calls on Army, Police To Ensure Security

BK0906141593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] On the morning of 9 June, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], received at the Tevea Vinichai pavillion in the royal palace high-ranking officials from the National Defense Ministry, led by His Excellency [H.E.] General Tie Banh, deputy prime minister and defense minister; high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Security led by H.E. General Sin Song, national security minister; and many other generals.

The prince listened to reports by H.E. General Tie Banh, on behalf of the Defense Ministry and the entire people's armed forces, and by H.E. General Sin Song, on behalf of the Security Ministry and the people's police force nationwide, who voiced support for the prince as head of a government to lead the country, nation, and the Cambodian people toward national reconciliation and to bring peace that will serve as a basis for rebuilding the country [words indistinct] and prosperity.

The prince expressed happiness and thanks for the goodwill and the trust of the armed forces and the people's police and for the support enabling him to achieve the national reconciliation and peace mission in Cambodia. He said however that he could not achieve this good desire because there were many obstacles. He further said that as SNC chairman, he fully respected the Paris agreement and would remain a cool shade for the people, who are his children, until September when the National Assembly, elected by the people, would promulgate a constitution and set up a new government.

He called on the people's armed forces and the people's police force, who are the existing administration, to continue ensuring security and safety and be patient and nonviolent so that in the future our country and nation will have genuine peace.

Paper Views Polls, Sihanouk's Political Role

BK0906051893 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 7-13 Jun 93 p 2

[From the "Comment" column]

[Text] The elections have not produced an outright winner, nor a broad based legislature which the architects of the polls strategy had planned.

The fight had been between the ruling Cambodia People's Party [CPP] and the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. Eighteen other assorted contenders were left out in the cold.

The people opted either for the Funcinpec or the CPP.

The tasks before the new government are both heavy and urgent. It firstly has to write up a constitution for the nation, and get it approved in the legislature. It has three months to do this under the terms of the Paris Peace Agreements, and it needs a two third majority vote for the approval.

Meanwhile, it has to re-open channels with the international community to bring in as fast as possible the aid promised to rebuild the nation's collapsed infrastructure. The international community will not hand over assistance to a squabbling nation.

It also has to reorganise the civil service from one that owes loyalty to a party to one that owes its allegiance to the government.

The people, who have been victims of internal strife for so long, have great expectations of their new government. They expect speedy solutions to their problems.

Although rebuilding the country is no easy task, the man in the street expects some miracle from his new leaders.

A minority government may not be able to handle the great tasks ahead. This calls for unity among the two sides in the house just elected. They need to work together to see a constitution and to put the nation on its feet.

It needs someone who can bring the sides together for this urgent task. Undoubtedly, one man can do it—Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk.

The elder statesman, who has always been the major player in its affairs, will no doubt find solutions to the impasse which existed towards the end of the ballot tally.

His understanding of his people and country are qualifications immensely vital to get the show on the road.

His advice, above party politic, will be acceptable both by the FUNCINPEC and the CPP.

There is no loss of face for either side, because both parties have put national interest first.

There is no longer any ideological differences between the two.

The CPP had from the beginning agreed to work with all parties in nation building, except hard core leaders of the Khmer Rouge.

FUNCINPEC too had shared the same views, but said it would wait until the polls are over.

The parties, putting aside the bitter campaigning, and working together for the country and its people, may prove that they are capable of greater things.

On the floor level, the people have spoken. They want both parties, perhaps one more than the other.

Now, the finest hour for the prince has arrived to prove that he is again the major player in local politics.

Indonesia

Official: Jakarta Not To Send Troops to Bosnia

BK0906075293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0742 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Jakarta, June 9 (AFP)—Indonesia will not in present circumstances contribute troops to a United Nations peacekeeping force to protect six Muslim enclaves in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a senior Indonesian official said Wednesday [9 June].

"Traditionally we are always ready to take part in United Nations missions, but we have not been asked and the Vance-Owen (peace) plan for Bosnia has almost been abandoned," Foreign Ministry Political Director Wiryno Sastrohanjoyo told AFP.

"Our priority is more Cambodia," he added, recalling that Indonesia had recently strengthened the two battalions it has serving there under United Nations auspices.

Indonesia is the world's biggest Muslim country with 88 percent of its 185 million population of the faith.

Wiryno emphasised that the solidarity Indonesia expressed for Bosnia at the ministerial meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in April in Karachi did not necessarily mean sending troops.

On May 27, a spokesman for United Nations Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said that Muslim countries should be invited to contribute militarily to the security of Bosnian Muslim zones set out in the Vance-Owen peace plan.

Butrus-Ghali has estimated that another 10,000 U.N. peacekeepers will be needed to reinforce the 9,000 already deployed in Bosnia.

Indonesia had been cited by Western diplomats at the United Nations as one of the Muslim-majority countries likely to be considered acceptable to take part in a Bosnian operation. Other Asian countries such as Malaysia, Pakistan and Bangladesh have also been suggested.

Ministry Rejects Portuguese Criticism of Trial

BK0906095893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] The Indonesian Government believes the Portuguese Government's allegation describing the trial of [captured East Timor rebel leader] Xanana Gusmao as a political trial full of abnormality and cruelty is totally groundless. A press release issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs in Jakarta today says that Xanana's trial was based on existing Indonesian laws. During the trial, Xanana Gusmao was always accompanied by his defense lawyer and interpreter. Besides, the council of judges treated him in accordance with existing Indonesian law.

Further on 'Absurd' Accusations

*BK0906081893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0808 GMT
9 Jun 93*

[Text] Jakarta, June 9 (AFP)—Indonesia has dismissed as baseless Portugal's accusations that last month's trial of East Timor rebel leader Xanana Gusmao was fraught with irregularities.

In a belated response to the charges, the Indonesian Foreign Ministry in a statement issued Tuesday [8 June] but made available Wednesday, said Gusmao's trial was conducted in accordance with Indonesian laws and regulations and therefore Lisbon's charges were "absurd and unwarranted."

An Indonesian court in Dili, East Timor, sentenced Gusmao to life imprisonment for rebellion, plotting against the state and illegal possession of firearms.

Gusmao headed East Timor's pro-independence movement Fretolin [Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor] from 1979 until his arrest in November. The former Portuguese colony was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed a year later.

Portugal said Gusmao's trial was "political" and "fraught with the gravest irregularities and outrages."

But the Indonesian Foreign Ministry said Portugal used Gusmao's trial to "intensify its campaign to discredit Indonesia and to undermine the serious efforts by the United Nations secretary general to find a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor."

"The continuing barrage of baseless accusations and the intensified campaign waged against Indonesia have put in serious doubt the goodwill and seriousness of Portugal in finding a solution to the question of East Timor through the dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations secretary general," it added.

The U.N. secretary general has sponsored since 1983 talks between Indonesian and Portuguese representatives in an effort to reach a peaceful settlement to the question of East Timor. The world body still recognizes Portugal as the administering power in East Timor.

During his trial, Gusmao was only allowed to read a small part of his defence plea, which was written in Portuguese, with the judge halting the reading saying that the content of the plea was irrelevant to the case.

Gusmao's government-appointed lawyer, Sujono, filed a plea for presidential clemency last week although it has not been signed by his client.

Government Sets Up Human Rights Commission

*BK0806133393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia
Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 8 Jun 93*

[Text] The government today announced the setting up of a national human rights commission. The commission is an independent and nongovernmental organization. Minister-State Secretary Murdiono announced the government's decision to reporters in Jakarta this evening and noted that the setting up of the commission is based on Presidential Decree No. 50 dated 7 June 1993.

The establishment of the commission is aimed at improving human rights and promoting a more favorable human rights situation in Indonesia based on the Pancasila ideology, the 1945 Constitution, the UN Charter, and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. With the setting up of the commission, it is hoped that human rights will receive more protection, which will in turn help achieve the objectives of national development. While the commission will be involved at the national and international levels in promoting human rights activities, it will also study several UN activities involved in the promotion of human rights in order to give its views. The commission will also monitor and investigate the human rights situation and give its views to the government agencies as well as carry out regional and international cooperation to promote human rights protection.

As for the membership of the commission, Minister Murdiono said it will have 25 members, including one chairman and two vice chairmen. The first full membership in the commission will be selected, appointed, and installed by the president, but after that, the commission's membership will be governed by its bylaw, which will soon be formulated. Replying to a reporter's question, Minister Murdiono said that the first chairman of the commission is to be Ali Said, a former chief of the Supreme Court, who has expressed his willingness to accept the post.

Rights Group on Situation

*BK0806115793 Hong Kong AFP in English 1110 GMT
8 Jun 93*

[Text] Jakarta, June 8 (AFP)—There has been no improvement in the human rights situation in Indonesia with violations and public intimidation still rife, a leading human rights group here said Tuesday [8 June].

"There is no improvement in the human rights situation in Indonesia... the real improvement for better life of the people," Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara, chairman of the Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation (LBH) said in advance of the departure of representatives of 56 Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to Vienna, Austria to attend a U.N.-sponsored World Conference on Human Rights.

Hakim cited the authorities' handling of labour strikes and separatist campaigns in Indonesia's northern province of Aceh, the eastern province of Irian Jaya and the former Portuguese colony of East Timor—where the military played a major role.

Hakim, however, noted improvements in allowing debate on human rights problems, saying open debate was now possible.

During the June 14-25 Vienna conference, the Indonesian "NGOs for democracy" will file several recommendations, including respect for civil rights and freedoms to ensure "that individuals are free from arbitrary detention, torture, coercion, punishment, and summary execution... and that militarisation must be eliminated for the realization of peace and the upholding of human rights," Hakim said.

He said the NGOs would also recommend that the right of workers to strike be fully guaranteed and that all forms of state intervention which undermine this right be eliminated.

Ten representatives of the 56 NGOs, led by leading Indonesian lawyer Adnan Buyung Nasution, were scheduled to leave for Vienna Tuesday to attend the eleven day conference, he said.

Fishermen Allowed To Travel to Sipadan, Ligitan

BK0606133193 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 21 May 93 p 16

[Text] Nunukan, 21 May—It is hoped that the people of Nunukan, Sebatik Indonesia, and Bulongan Districts will not have any fear about going to the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands, which are situated off Bulongan District. This is because the islands, which are located not far from Sampurna in Sabah, East Malaysia, are Indonesian territory.

In a recent meeting with community leaders of Nunukan subdistrict, Bulongan District chief Yusuf Dali said that fishermen from Sebatik and Nunukan in East Kalimantan should know that the two islands are Indonesian territory.

The Bulongan District chief told community leaders present at the meeting, which was scheduled as part of his working visit to Nunukan subdistrict, that no other countries could lay claim to the two islands alleging that they are part of their territory and preventing Indonesian fishermen from going there before their status is made clear.

Dali said that if the overlapping claims by Malaysia and Indonesia over the disputed islands are not solved for the time being, the status quo maintained on the islands should be respected. According to the district chief, if any of the countries did not observe the status quo arrangement on the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands, it would be possible for Indonesian fishermen to turn those islands into Indonesian territory.

He said there are other countries that are taking advantage of and exploiting the resources on the islands while at the same time recognizing the status quo arrangement. "I feel that it is not fair if other countries that are confident of their ownership and also have rights over the islands are prevented from setting foot on the islands".

Dali said that the people of Bulongan should ever be aware that the Sipadan and Ligitan islands are their own territory. "I am giving permission to the people of Bulongan, especially the fishermen, to enter the waters around the islands."

The unclear status of the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands has made an area of about 200 square km of territorial waters between Indonesia and Malaysia questionable. "Our fishermen are still doubtful and are afraid that they will be chased away and prevented from fishing there," he added.

Yusuf Dali told PEMBARUAN that there are many reports on private tourism companies from Malaysia taking advantage of the island, which is located about 40 miles from Sebatik. These companies continue to build cottages and restaurants there.

Dali also explained that Malaysian security officials together with a tour agency, Borneo Divers, and Sipadan Resort, which is in charge of developing tourism facilities on the island, have an antipathetical attitude toward Indonesian fishermen, whereas prior to 1986 the small island was used as a temporary shelter during bad weather by fishermen from Sebatik Indonesia and Nunukan, and by some Filipinos.

Based on PEMBARUAN's records, the status of the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands has been on the agenda in meetings between Malaysia and Indonesia since 1982. However, when news of the military exercise that was carried out on Sipadan Island by Malaysia became known, it was agreed upon that there should be a status quo arrangement on that island.

Later, beginning in 1986, the Sabah Resort and Borneo Divers developed high-priced tourism facilities on Sipadan Island.

Several Indonesian fishermen from Sungai Pancang and Sungai Nyamuk, Sebatik Island in Indonesia, told PEMBARUAN that Malaysian Marine patrol boats used to chase away Indonesian fishermen who were seen near the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands. As a matter of fact, they openly said that the waters around the two islands are Malaysian territory.

Ten Warships To Be Deployed at Maluku, Irian Jaya

BK0806075693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0623 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] Jayapura, June 8 (OANA/ANTARA)—The Indonesian Navy plans to operate 10 of the 39 warships it purchased from Germany to guard eastern waters of Maluku and Irian Jaya.

First Admiral Adi Mulyo, the commander of the 5th naval main base in Jayapura said Monday [7 June] he hoped with the addition of the 10 corvet and landing ship-type warships, the Navy could protect Maluku and Irian Jaya waters particularly Aru islands waters where illegal fishing by foreign fishermen such as from Taiwan, Thailand, and Korea was rife.

Adi Mulyo said the ships would be stationed in Tual (2), the capital of southeast Maluku (2), Ambon (4), and Jayapura (4). [numbers as received]

He hoped with the operation of the new ships, illegal fishing in the region would reduce to a minimum level.

According to him, foreign-flagged ships with capacity sometimes reaching 2,000 tons have developed a new operation method of purchasing local fishermen's catch in mid sea and flee with it in a large ship without necessarily paying taxes, he said.

A Taiwanese ship was nabbed last April collecting an illegal purchase of fish catch worth 2.5 billion rupiah (U.S.\$1.25 million), he said.

The 5th Naval main base nabbed as many as 25 foreign-flagged ships stealing fish in the region in the last one and a half years and three of them have already been confiscated, he said.

Armed Forces Head on Potential Threats to Nation

BK0406144893 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Armed Forces Commander General Feisal Tanjung says that potential threats to be faced by the Indonesian people in the coming five years will be multidimensional in nature, namely, that they might come from outside or inside the country. However, domestic threats are more likely to appear in the form of the GPK [Security Disturbance Movement], riots, and protest demonstrations.

Addressing a plenary meeting of the Department of Information in Jakarta this afternoon, Gen. Feisal said that it is necessary in the future to keep watch on white-collar criminals, ultraleftists, and ultrarightists. These extremist groups may carry out their political activities under the guise of democracy, human rights, and the environment.

Touching on the globalization process of information, Gen. Feisal noted that it is difficult to screen the entry of foreign culture and information. Therefore, those who work in information dissemination, including the national press, are playing an important role in preventing the entry of foreign culture unsuitable to the national culture.

Laos**Third National Trade Union Congress Opens 9 Jun**

BK0906112193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The third national congress of the Federation of Lao Trade Unions [FLTU] was elegantly opened at the main meeting hall of the National Assembly in Vientiane this morning. It was attended by 172 full members from provinces, municipalities, and various services who represented more than 70,000 trade union members throughout the country. Attending the opening ceremony as guests of honor were Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; Nouhak Phoumsavan, Political Bureau member of the LPRP Central Committee and president of the LPDR; Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the central party and State Control Committee; and Oudom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the party committee and governor of Vientiane Municipality; along with ministers, deputy ministers, representatives of mass organizations, members of the National Assembly, personages, and representatives of the people of all strata.

The official opening ceremony began at 0800 with the playing of the National Anthem. Khampan Philavong, member of the party Central Committee and head of the guidance committee in charge of making preparations for the third national trade union congress, delivered an opening speech. [passage omitted]

Bounthan Souvannasouk, chairman of the FLTU Central Committee, then took the floor to present a political report of the FLTU Central Committee. The political report is divided into two main parts. Part one deals with implementing the resolutions of the second national trade union congress over the past five years. This part notes the educational, social, and ideological work; the trade union movements; the task of protecting just interests; and the promotion and expansion of democracy among workers, state employees, and trade union members. It also points to work on consolidating the organizational apparatuses of the FLTU. It points out that as of now, the number of units of grass roots trade unions has increased from 1,020 to 1,298 with the number of union members increasing to more than 70,000. [passage omitted] Part two of the report deals

with direction and duties to be fulfilled in the immediate future. The common duties noted in this part are to positively educate and train union members, workers, and laborers to enable them to profoundly understand the party's restructuring policy; raise to a higher level their sense toward classes and spirit of revolutionary perseverance; firmly enhance the unique solidarity in the ranks of trade unions; and positively defend the material and spiritual interests of workers and laborers in coordination with the common interests of the nation. [passage omitted]

Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the party Central Committee and prime minister of the LPDR, then delivered a speech addressing delegates to the congress. In his speech he noted: First of all, it should be understood that the trade union is not an executive organization. It is not like ministries or various state committees which maintain and carry out the management and execution roles and responsibilities. The trade union is a mass organization which maintains the role and responsibilities of rallying, organizing, educating, training, and leading workers and laborers of all tribes to create an overall strength to contribute to the cause of defending and developing the country in accordance with the line, plans, and policies of the party and the regulations and laws of the state in order to bring about concrete benefits to the workers and laborers themselves. [passage omitted]

Afterwards, Bounthan Souvannasouk, chairman of the FLTU, presented to the congress a report reviewing the second FLTU Central Committee for the delegates to learn lessons, and good and weak points of the second FLTU Central Committee in carrying out its work since the second national trade union congress.

Reportage on Visit by Thai Premier, Delegation

Chuan Arrives 4 Jun

BK0406090193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] In response to an invitation from His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], H.E. Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, led a Thai Government delegation to arrive in the capital of Vientiane at 0930 this morning for a three-day official friendship visit to the LPDR.

Welcoming the Thai prime minister and the high-level Thai Government delegation at Wattai International Airport were H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon; H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha; H.E. Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat; ministers and deputy ministers; high-ranking officers from the military, police, and civil service; and a large number of residents of the capital of Vientiane.

After the plane landed at the airport, H.E. Chuan Likphai and the entourage walked down from the aircraft

and were accorded a cordial welcome by H.E. Khamtai Siphandon and a Lao delegation. Then an official ceremony began with national anthems of the two countries. The Thai prime minister was invited to review guards of honor.

Prime Minister Chuan shook hands with Lao ministers, deputy ministers, high-ranking civil, military, and police officers, people of Vientiane, and Thai residents in Laos.

The Thai delegation was taken by motorcade from the airport to the state guest hall in Vientiane.

Accompanying Prime Minister Chuan on this trip were H.E. Supphachai Phanitchaphak, deputy prime minister; H.E. Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister; General Wichtit Sukmak, defense minister; ministers and deputy ministers; high-ranking officials from various agencies; governors of various provinces bordering Laos; and related state and private sectors. The entourage consists of 95 members.

At 10:30, H.E. Chuan and the delegation laid wreaths at the monument to the unknown soldiers, and visited a Buddhist temple, Vat That Luang. In the afternoon, there will be a meeting and talks between the Lao and Thai delegations.

Editorial Welcomes Visit

BK0406090393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 4 Jun 93

[PASASON 4 June issue editorial: "Wholeheartedly Welcome His Excellency Chuan Likphai and the Delegation"]

[Text] Today the residents of the capital of Vientiane and all the Lao people throughout the country feel highly honored and extremely pleased to have an opportunity to welcome His Excellency [H.E.] Chuan Likphai and his delegation, who are making an official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] at the invitation of our prime minister, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon.

This visit to Laos by the high-level delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand will contribute to the promotion and development of relations and cooperation in various fields between the two countries, Laos and Thailand, especially in the fields of economy and investment in Laos. Moreover, the visit also reassures the strengthening of the longstanding brotherly relations between the two peoples of Laos and Thailand so they will flourish ever more in conformity with the new situation and the interests of the two countries and their peoples, which have regularly carried out trading activities and rendered assistance to each other, especially along the common border. Improvement of the relations and cooperation would proceed under the principle and spirit of various agreements and joint communiques previously signed by the governments of the two countries.

During his visit to the LPDR from 4 to 6 June, H.E. Chuan Likphai and the delegation will hold talks and work with the Lao Government delegation and will also visit various production and cultural establishments in Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

As we all know well, Lao-Thai relations in recent years, particularly at present, have been developing satisfactorily. This has obviously been shown by exchanges of delegations and assistance and cooperation with each other, especially in the cultural, social, and investment fields. At present, the number of Thai companies and businessmen investing in Laos is larger than those from any other country.

Based on the facts mentioned above, the Lao and Thai people are confident that when the ongoing construction of the bridge across the Mekong River is complete, the relations and cooperation between the two countries, Laos and Thailand, will develop ever more rapidly. The longstanding brotherly and neighborly relations, cooperation, and assistance between the two countries and their peoples would then be upgraded to a higher level.

The Lao and Thai peoples have never forgotten that the greater Lao-Thai relations are improved, the more furious become a group of bad elements who want to destroy Lao-Thai relations. As in the past, they recently made a movement to create anger and misunderstanding between the Lao and Thai peoples. They deliberately created false news through distribution of leaflets saying the Lao Government plans to annex the northeastern region of Thailand, and the matter was published in the "Soi Suan Phlu" column of the SIAM RAT daily newspaper in Thailand. However, the Lao and Thai peoples do not all believe in such a vicious plot, but have even increased their bilateral cooperation and assistance. The Lao and Thai people have joined hands to suppress the bad elements' plots and activities on a timely basis and in a praiseworthy manner. An example of this is the successful cooperation in the suppression and arrest of criminals who robbed a bank in the LPDR.

Therefore, as a result of the visit to the LPDR by the high-level Thai Government delegation, it is expected that various works which have been delayed or remained unfinished, and obstacles to steps of enhancement of relations and cooperation between Laos and Thailand in the new era will be gradually resolved. All this is to serve the interests of the two countries and their peoples under the principles of respect for each other's rights, sovereignty, territorial integrity, equality, and mutual benefits.

All in all, may the official friendship visit to the LPDR by H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and the delegation be a glorious success so it will significantly contribute to the gradual improvement and development of the fine Lao-Thai relations and cooperation, which has existed since ancient times, for the interests of the Lao and Thai peoples, as well as friendship, peace, and stability in the region and the world.

Khamtai, Chuan Discuss Economic Issues

BK0406143693 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] At 1430 today, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his entourage held a consultative meeting with Lao Prime Minister General Khamtai Siphandon and the entire Lao Cabinet. After the meeting, the two governments signed two agreements on cooperation in electricity energy development in Laos and cooperation between the two countries' investment promotion agencies.

Later Prime Minister Chuan Likphai handed education equipment to the Lao prime minister and said he was pleased to have witnessed the signing of the two agreements during his visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Thai prime minister said the agreements are important to the promotion of relations and mutual assistance between the two countries. The education equipment included teaching aids for electronic study which will be useful to the Lao people.

The Lao and Thai government officials later were divided into four small rousps for further consultations.

The first group included prime ministers of the two countries while the other three discussed issues pertaining to economics, finance, and national security. The discussion lasted about two hours.

Speaking to reporters after attending the political discussion group, Thai Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said that the meeting discussed problems concerning the Thai-Lao border.

[Begin Prasong recording] There should be a joint working team or commission to hold consultations and exchange views on political developments in the region and elsewhere for the common interests of the two countries. I have informed Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat that the border committees of the two countries have agreed to hold the next meeting around July to work on the remaining border problems. The meeting of the Thai-Lao cooperation committee, which is co-chaired by the foreign ministers of the two countries, will meet in Luang Prabang around August for the convenience of both sides. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak, who attended the meeting of the economic group, told reporters that officials of the two countries have discussed issues pertaining to reduction of import duties, double taxation, and development of the communications network in Laos.

[Begin Suphachai recording] Laos wants Thailand to reduce import taxes imposed on Lao goods. In fact, Thailand has already reduced import taxes for many Lao products such as sawn timber. Laos wants us to reduce import taxes for all construction materials. We will

consider the request including the avoidance of double taxation, which will be worked out by the Finance Ministry.

Second, we discussed cooperation in construction of the communications network. Laos emphasizes the significance of Highway No. 12 that links Nakhon Phanom Province and Thakhek to Vietnam's Vinh Seaport because it cuts through Laos' special economic development zone under Laos' economic development plan, which covers the areas of Vientiane, Xieng Khouang, and some other provinces. The second Nam Ngoum and Nam Tha dams are two major energy development projects in Laos. The area is rich in natural resources. Thus Laos wants our cooperation in cutting roads through the area. We will bring the issue up for consultations with the ADB [Asian Development Bank] in August. Another important route stretches from Chiang Khong District to Louang Namtha. A Thai private company is now conducting a survey for the construction of this road. This private group will also later engage in exporting lignite to Thailand. The third important route is the one that links Ubon Ratchathani to Phnom Penh. The Lao Government intends to give concessions to a Thai private company to conduct the survey for construction of this road. [end recording]

Cooperation Meeting Detailed

BK0506154593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] At 1430 on 4 June, the high-level delegation of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], headed by His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, and the high-level delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, headed by H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, held an official meeting and consultation at the Government House in Vientiane.

Attending the meeting on the Lao Government side were: H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Commission for Planning and Cooperation; H.E. Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense and chairman of the Lao-Thai General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee; H.E. Phao Bounnaphon, minister and head of the Prime Minister's Office; H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat, minister for foreign affairs; H.E. Sompadit Volasan, minister of trade; H.E. Souban Salitthilat, deputy minister for foreign affairs; H.E. Siangsom Kounlavong, deputy minister of interior; H.E. Bounleut Kennavong, deputy minister of finance; H.E. Leuan Sombounkhan, deputy chairman of the Commission for Planning and Cooperation; H.E. Bounkeut Sangsomsak, LPDR ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Thailand; high-ranking officials from the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Commission for Planning and Cooperation, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of

Industry and Handicrafts; and the lord mayor of Vientiane city and the governors of Vientiane, Savannakhet, Khammouane, Bolikhamsai, and Luang Prabang Provinces.

Attending for the Thai Government delegation were: H.E. Supphachai Phanitchaphak, deputy prime minister; H.E. Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri, foreign minister; H.E. General Wichtit Sukmak, minister of defense; H.E. Dr. Sathit Phothiwihok, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office; H.E. Trairong Suwannakhiri, deputy minister of finance; H.E. Chaiyot Sasomsap, deputy minister of commerce; H.E. Suthat Ngeonmuen, deputy minister of interior; H.E. Dr. Thawat Wichaidit, general secretary to the prime minister; H.E. Pracha Kunnakasem, undersecretary for foreign affairs; H.E. Sommai Surakun, undersecretary of agriculture and cooperatives; H.E. Air Chief Marshal Woranat Aphichari, military supreme commander and chairman of the Thai-Lao General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee; H.E. Nikhom Tantemsap, Thai ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos; Sathaphon Kawitanon, secretary general of the Board of Investment Promotion; Aphisit Wetchachiwa, spokesman of the Prime Minister's Office; Khachatphai Burutphat, deputy secretary general of the National Security Council; Suwit Wangli, chairman of the Thai Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Chokchai Aksonnan, chairman of the Thai Board of Industry; Anek Siripitachat, chairman of the Thai Tourism Association; Sanit Khongsiri, director general of the Economics Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; Son (Paramattiwong), director general of the East Asia Department of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the governors of the 10 provinces sharing a common border with Laos; and a number of high-ranking officials in the Thai Government delegation.

At the important meeting, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon extended his wholehearted welcome and hailed the official friendship visit to Laos by H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his delegation. He believed that the visit was an important contribution to increasing and strengthening the relations of brotherliness between the Lao and Thai peoples, thereby further developing bilateral cooperation in various fields. H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon noted: Laos and Thailand and the Lao and Thai peoples have maintained a long-standing tradition of friendship since ancient times. This relationship has been further developed and is growing, especially in recent years. The visits to Laos by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirindhorn and His Royal Highness the Crown Prince and the visit to the Kingdom of Thailand by H.E. President Kaysone Phomvihan have created a basis for mutual understanding and sincerity, thereby taking the relationship between the two countries to the paramount level and resulting in many new steps of development.

The Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed by the Lao and Thai Governments in 1992 has facilitated the development of good mutual relations and cooperation

between our two countries. The meetings at various levels between the foreign ministers of Laos and Thailand in Vientiane and Bangkok as well as the regular consultations and exchange of views between the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao Cooperation Committees and many other committees, which are excellent mechanisms for coordinating work in solving various problems in bilateral relations, have served to more fruitfully promote cooperation in the technical, cultural, and other fields.

H.E. Khamtai Siphandon said that the visit to Laos by H.E. Chuan Likphai provided a good opportunity for the two governments to review past cooperation, and to exchange views on the direction of immediate cooperation plans aimed at continually consolidating and enhancing bilateral relations in conformity with the current overall world trend, meeting the strong aspirations of the Lao and Thai peoples who consistently want to maintain and preserve the intimate love and friendship of brotherliness and neighborliness between the two countries.

H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon noted: Bilateral cooperation appears to be increasing and has developed in many areas. For example in the investment field, since the LPDR Government announced a policy of broadening economic relations with foreign countries and promulgating the foreign investment promotion law in 1988, Thai businessmen have invested in 126 projects in Laos with a total capital of U.S.\$164 million—equivalent to 35 percent of the total foreign investment in Laos.

With regard to cooperation in electricity development, communications, trade, and technology as well as in border and other issues, the two sides have brilliantly cooperated with each other. H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon went on to say that regarding long-term bilateral economic cooperation, we should consult with each other on the management of border trade and the establishment of measures to reduce Thai import taxes on finished wood products and other agricultural goods imported from Laos into Thailand as earlier agreed upon. At the same time, additional consultations should be held on the reduction of Thai import taxes on Lao goods. With regard to communications issues, the government has proposed to the Thai side to develop communications routes in Laos, including routes linking with China and the sea in the east. Another urgent issue about which the two sides must consult is the transport of transit goods following the completion of the Lao-Thai friendship bridge so as to provide more convenience for Laos. The two sides must consult on air transport cooperation, as well as cooperation to preserve and use the Mekong River on the principle of respect for each other's interests.

For his part, H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai expressed his thanks to the Lao side for according him and his delegation a warm welcome as close cousins during the visit. He reaffirmed that Thailand would render good cooperation to the Lao side in all fields,

especially on the issue of the joint management of the border; cooperation in investment, communications, the utilization of electricity, the reduction of import taxes on Lao agricultural products and finished wood products; and cooperation in other fields. H.E. Chuan Likphai has assigned various sectors concerned to take charge of these issues and to hold consultations and exchanges of views with the Lao side, and to implement together with the Lao side all issues of Lao-Thai cooperation.

The meeting between the high-level delegations of the Lao and Thai Governments proceeded in an atmosphere of intimacy, close kinship, and good understanding.

Cooperation Agreements Signed

BK0706070693 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] At 1500 on 4 June at the Prime Minister's Office, the Lao and Thai governments signed two documents on cooperation in electricity production and investment between the two countries.

Phao Bounnaphon, minister and head of the Prime Minister's Office of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], and Dr. Sawit Phothiwihok, minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office of the Kingdom of Thailand, jointly signed a memorandum of understanding on such cooperation between Laos and Thailand.

The memorandum stipulated that with regard to the LPDR Government's aim of developing electricity production from now to the year 2000 up to 1,500 megawatts, the two sides—Laos and Thailand—will cooperate with each other in promoting hydropower development in the LPDR for sale to the Kingdom of Thailand. The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand [EGAT] or other organizations of the Kingdom of Thailand, entrusted by the state to take charge of electricity enterprises, are pleased to coordinate the electricity production in Laos with the electricity development program of the Kingdom of Thailand. That is, they will appropriately adjust investment in creating the generation of electricity and reserve sources, including the expansion of the electricity distributing system with a view to conveniently and permanently receiving electricity from the LPDR. The two sides will jointly prepare an agreement for long-term purchases of electricity with prices appropriate and in line with the stability in the quality of production and distribution of electricity depending on needs so as to allow investment to proceed smoothly. The two sides acknowledged the outcome of the initial study conducted by the EGAT and the Electricity Company on the meeting of the needs for electricity consumption in regions along the Thai-Lao border. At present, the EGAT is carrying out a survey to design electric poles and lines across the Mekong River between the Paksan point [in Laos] and the Bungkan point [in Thailand], the Thakhek point [in Laos] and the Nakhon Phanom point [in Thailand], and the Savannakhet point [in Laos] and the Mukdahan point [in Thailand]. The

two sides will continue synchronizing the Thai-Lao electricity system along the border, taking into consideration appropriate socioeconomic interests.

The two sides shared the view that in addition to developing hydropower for the benefits of the two countries, they will cooperate with each other in tapping coal energy resources in the LPDR as well.

The LPDR Government gives support and promotion to financial institutions, private investors, and entrepreneurs from the Kingdom of Thailand to join in making investment to carry out the construction, management, and organization of electricity generating projects in the LPDR.

The two sides had similar views on joint cooperation in developing hydropower sources for the development of coal energy sources in the LPDR. With regard to the sale and purchase of electricity, including the concrete expansion of the electricity system between the two countries in the near future, it is appropriate to set up a committee from each country to coordinate future programs.

On the same day, Leuan Sombounkhan, vice chairman of the LPDR Commission for Planning and Cooperation, and Sathaphon Kawitanon, secretary general of the Board of Investment Promotion, also signed a cooperation agreement between the standing office attached to the LPDR Investment Committee and the office of the Board of Investment Promotion of the Kingdom of Thailand. The signatories of this agreement will exchange investment information and data with each other in accordance with the prevailing conditions and actual capabilities of each side, regularly consult with each other in promoting investment between the two countries, exchange information and data, and consult with each other on specifying investment branches with high possibilities and the forms and scope of joint investment. The signatories will consider exchanging officials with a view to strengthening the work operations. At the same time, the two sides also agreed to cooperate with each other in promoting investment projects with mutual benefits. The office of the Board of Investment Promotion of the Kingdom of Thailand will provide assistance in organizing training programs for personnel of the LPDR Government, especially those involving investment promotion. The agreement stipulated that the two sides will provide facilities to each other and to any committees seeking data on investment in accordance with the prevailing conditions and actual capabilities of each side.

This agreement will be in effect on the day it is signed and become initially effective two years after it is signed.

The two agreements on cooperation were signed in the presence of His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and personages representing the government delegations of the two countries.

On the same occasion, H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai also handed educational materials as aid worth 12 million baht to H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon.

Relations With Thailand Viewed

BK0506123193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Commentary by Sai Namkok: "Lao-Thai Relations in the New Stage"]

[Text] The Lao and Thai peoples are of the same blood. We share similar customs, traditions, cultures, and languages. All these have served as a factor for maintaining the long-standing relations between Laos and Thailand. (?In recent years), bilateral relations have been elevated to a higher level. (?To further enhance the time-honored brotherly ties), the leaders of the two countries have tried to bring peace to the peoples of Laos and Thailand on the basis of the 1978 and 1988 joint communiques signed by the two governments.

Events indicating the development of such ties are numerous. The most prominent events were the official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand by Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], in early 1992 at the invitation of His Majesty the King of Thailand, as well as the official state visit to the LPDR by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince in the name of Their Majesties the King and Queen of the Kingdom of Thailand in March 1992 at the invitation of the late LPDR president, Kaysone Phomvihan.

Laos and Thailand have also agreed to build a friendship bridge across the Mekong river with financial assistance amounting to more than U.S.\$30 million from the Australian Government. The construction of the bridge is expected to be finished by 1994. This bridge has come not only to symbolize the friendship and interests of the two countries, but also the mutual understanding and cooperation among the countries in this region.

With the aspirations of the Lao and Thai peoples to turn the Mekong river into a river of peace between the two brotherly and neighborly countries, the governments of the two countries have established joint Lao-Thai cooperation committees, Lao-Thai border peacekeeping cooperation committees, and joint Lao-Thai border committees. The governments of the two countries also signed a Treaty of Peace and Cooperation in Bangkok in 1992. These historic documents have become a factor guaranteeing bilateral cooperation in various fields on the basis of equality, mutual respect, and mutual benefit. Thailand's investment in Laos is now regarded as the highest of all. The two governments have signed an agreement on cross-border trade and are promoting government-to-government and private sector trade. The Thai Government has recently given a number of long- and short-term grants to the Lao Government to

send Lao authorities to study and engage in research work in Thailand. All these past events are related to the current developments.

(?Today), the multiethnic Lao people are very pleased to welcome the official friendship visit to the LPDR by His Excellency Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Chuan Speaks at 4 Jun Banquet

BK0506104193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Speech by Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, delivered at 4 June banquet in Vientiane; broadcast in Thai—recorded]

[Text] Your Excellency, the prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]; Your Excellencies, the deputy prime ministers; Members of the Council of Ministers; Distinguished persons:

I am very pleased to pay this visit to the LPDR. The relations between our countries are of special meaning because we are close to each other in languages, religious beliefs, traditions, customs, and cultures. My delegation and I have been accorded a warm and friendly welcome as intimate cousins by the brotherly Lao people. I would like to thank all of you for hosting the welcoming party in honor of our delegation and me tonight. This evening is a very meaningful night for us because it is the full moon night of Wisakhabucha Day.

At present, the political and economic situations have rapidly changed both inside and outside of this region. But the maintenance and promotion of friendly relations from the Thai Government toward the LPDR still remains firm and unchanged. History has taught us the invaluable lesson that a close relationship must be nurtured with mutual understanding and respect as well as mutual dealings on an equal footing. My visit to Laos this time is to reiterate the wishes of Thailand to further strengthen (?this relationship) to become an ever-flowing river endlessly feeding our friendship.

Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister, together we have established a mechanism of cooperation for further enhancing and solidifying bilateral relations. Your Excellency, you signed the Treaty of Peace and Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and the LPDR in February 1992 during your visit to Thailand. The state visits to the LPDR by several members of the Thai royal family as well as a constant exchange of visits between high-level personages and officials of the two countries have served to further strengthen and bring closer bilateral relations. On behalf of the Thai Government, I would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks once again to the Lao Government and people for having extended an honorable welcome to members of the royal family of Thailand and a warm welcome to the entire Thai delegation.

Today, our relationship has made another step forward. As a result of our close and intimate consultation, we have unanimously agreed on the principle that our economic relations can make headway only when we manage to coordinate our interests in a just manner both for the short- and long-term periods. I believe that our long-term harmonious objectives will become a source of strength for us to cope with any international economic changes that will become even more rigorous in the future. The signing of an agreement on cooperation between the investment promotion agencies of Thailand and Laos and a memorandum of understanding on our cooperation in electricity development in Laos constitute an important step in our cooperation which will help solidify our relations.

Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister, even though regional stability cannot be realized overnight, in order to fulfill the objectives of turning this region into a zone of peace and freedom, every country must exert greater efforts. I am very pleased that both Thailand and Laos—close neighbors of Cambodia—share a common policy, that is, both countries want to see Cambodia attain national conciliation, tranquillity, and prosperity. Thailand is prepared to render whatever appropriate support is necessary to Cambodia and is pleased to see that the election process in Cambodia has been successful. It is another step forward that will lead to the emergence of national reconciliation and peace in Cambodia. Thailand supports UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] and the determination of the Cambodian people, who came out to vote in overwhelming numbers, in their efforts that will lead to the formation of a new government and the drafting of the constitution as stipulated in the Paris agreement. I hope Cambodia will have a government that will be able to make all factions reconcile and develop friendly relations with all countries.

Your Excellency Mr. Prime Minister, peace will help promote and solidify cooperation in all fields in this region within a wider scope, be it cooperation in the development of the Mekong river basin or in the development of communications routes in accordance with the outcome of a meeting among Thai, Lao, Burmese, and Chinese officials held in Bangkok on 27-28 May. The results of that meeting will bring prosperity, well-being, and happiness to all countries and peoples in this region. I believe that (?Thailand) is prepared to be a factor in creating a network of communications routes, not only within the framework of cooperation among Thailand, Laos, Burma, and China, but also with other countries in this region. I firmly believe that with the firm determination of our two governments and peoples, coupled with the current trend of development of the regional situation toward peace, we will be able to create a new dimension in regional cooperation that will bring happiness to our countries and peoples both at present and in the future.

Once again, I would like to extend my thanks to Your Excellency for your warm welcome. On this occasion, I

invite all distinguished personalities to join in a toast to the good health and achievements of His Excellency the President of State and His Excellency the Prime Minister, to the prosperity and happiness of the Lao people, and to the continued existence of the close relations between the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand. [applause]

Khamtai Speaks at Banquet

BK0506114193 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Address by Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon at a banquet in honor of the visiting Thai delegation held in Vientiane on 4 June—recorded]

[Text] Respected Excellency Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, beloved distinguished guests in the Thai Government delegation, beloved ladies and gentlemen. I and the Lao Government feel honored and very pleased to have the opportunity to welcome Your Excellency Chuan Likphai, who leads the government delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand on its official friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

On behalf of the Lao Government and people, I would like to express my wholehearted appreciation to Your Excellency Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and the Thai delegation. Your Excellency and distinguished guests, as we all know, the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand are neighboring countries linked by both land and water with a border stretching more than 1,600 km. The peoples of the two nations, Laos and Thailand, are close relatives. They have regularly assisted and communicated with each other since ancient times. Their languages, traditions, and cultures are quite similar.

Throughout a long period in history, the two peoples have relentlessly maintained and developed their relations and cooperation to become the brotherly countries they are today. I am pleased to see that in recent years, bilateral relations have been developed to flourish consistently, thanks to the efforts of both sides.

Significant events, which are auspicious and historic, have been the visit to the LPDR by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon in 1990, the official visits to the Kingdom of Thailand of President Kaysone Phomvihan and myself in early 1992, followed by the visit to the LPDR by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkorn of the Kingdom of Thailand in the same year.

The construction of a bridge across the Mekong River linking Vientiane and [Thailand's] Nong Khai Province, the signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation, as well as the establishment of (?three) economic cooperation committees, have become important milestones and a mechanism for promoting bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields.

The meeting and talks between the two delegations of Laos and Thailand on the occasion of the visit by Your Excellency Prime Minister and your delegation brings better understanding among our two sides. We have been able to exchange views in a friendly manner to promote cooperation in various fields in order to produce truly positive results. Together we also tried to find solutions to bilateral problems that remain unsolved. This achievement is an important step for the continuation of the aforementioned intentions and relentless efforts of both sides.

Your Excellency, distinguished guests, since 1986, the LPDR has implemented an economic reform policy in line with the state-adjusted market economy by means of expanding relations with other countries and shifting from a natural economy to a goods production economy. I am pleased to see that such a policy has gained significantly positive results in the initial stage, thus gradually improving the people's living conditions.

With the objective of further developing the country, our National Assembly has approved the national socioeconomic development plan for the 1993-2000 period. This long-term development plan has gained the strong support of all Lao people throughout the country and has increasingly been transformed into real practice. In order to attain the set target, we deem it necessary to have conditions of peace and stability. The LPDR Government has therefore consistently firmly maintained a foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship, and cooperation. The country has maintained a policy of establishing good relations with various countries in the world, first and foremost with neighboring countries under the principle of respecting each other's independence, sovereignty, and equality for mutual benefit.

I would like to confirm that the LPDR always wants to have [word indistinct] and goodneighborly relations with the Kingdom of Thailand, which were initiated and implemented by President Kaysone Phomvihan. All this is in the interests of the two peoples of Laos and Thailand.

According to the spirit of the aforementioned foreign policy, the LPDR strongly hopes to see the Cambodian people able to live in peace and national reconciliation in order to rebuild their country. Therefore, our government is willing to establish relations with a government to be formed by the new national council of Cambodia. The LPDR will work to enhance and consolidate good relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of Myanmar [Burma]. The LPDR is prepared to expand relations in various aspects with the ASEAN countries and participate in their activities as an ASEAN observer country in conformity with its actual conditions and potential, and to contribute to the cause of peace, stability, and cooperation for the progress and prosperity of the Southeast Asian region and the world.

Your Excellency, all distinguished guests, although the visit to the LPDR by Your Excellency Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and delegation is only a short one, it still helps to further promote understanding and improve the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Amid this glorious and auspicious atmosphere, I invite Your Excellency and all distinguished guests to join me in a toast to the happiness of Their Majesties King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Queen Sirikit and all members and relatives of the royal family of the Kingdom of Thailand; for the health of Your Excellency Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, the health of all members of the delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand, the the health of all distinguished guests present at this banquet; and the friendship, lasting cooperation, and flourishing relations between the peoples and governments of the two countries, Laos and Thailand. Thank you. [applause]

Chuan Visits Mekong Bridge 5 Jun

BK0506062593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] This morning, His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai of the Kingdom of Thailand and the high-level Thai Government delegation visited the construction site of the bridge across the Mekong River, which links Hatsaifong District, Vientiane Municipality, and Thailand's Nong Khai Muang District, Nong Khai Province.

Afterward, H.E. Chuan Likphai will meet staff members of the Thai Embassy in Laos and Thai residents in the country.

This afternoon, H.E. Chuan Likphai and his entourage will fly from Wattai International Airport, the capital city of Vientiane, by a special plane, to Luang Prabang District for a visit to Luang Prabang Province.

Prasong Urges Faster Refugee Repatriation

BK0506021193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Jun 93 pp 1, 3

[Text] Vientiane—Thailand yesterday urged Laos to speed up repatriation of Laotians still in Thai camps to stop "ill-intentioned" elements from using them as support bases for activities against Vientiane.

Refugee camps are used as bases by "those with ill intention towards Laos," Foreign Minister Prasong Sun-siri said yesterday.

The closure of the refugee camps would weaken the strength of the Lao rebels, Armed Forces Supreme Commander Woranat Aphichari said.

Both Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong and ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Woranat emphasised that Thailand has "no policy" to support Hmong insurgents.

"I confirm that this government would not do that," Sqn Ldr Prasong said.

"All officials take heed of this policy," ACM Woranat said.

An estimated 30,000 Laotians still encamped in Thailand are due to be repatriated by 1994.

The repatriation, coordinated by the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), has proceeded slowly, largely owing to problems on the Laotian side.

Sqn Ldr Prasong and ACM Woranat made their remarks after engaging in high-level talks with their Lao counterparts on the first day of Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's three-day official visit to Laos.

There were three separate discussion groups that respectively tackled political, security and economic issues.

Sqn Ldr Prasong led the Thais in the political discussions while ACM Woranat led the Thai security team and Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak headed the Thai delegation for the economic talks.

Mr Chuan had a one-to-one meeting with his host, Lao party chairman and Premier Khamtai Siphandon while the three group discussions were under way.

A memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the development of electricity, and an agreement on investment promotion were signed after full delegations met in a plenary session.

The problem of Hmong insurgents came up in the political and security discussions.

ACM Woranat pointed to the length of the Thai-Lao border—marked in part by the Mekong River and stretching 1,200 kilometres—as an obstacle to the maintenance of security.

Sqn Ldr Prasong said the political group agreed that technical officials of both sides should meet in July to discuss questions of boundary demarcation before a ground survey is conducted of three disputed border villages Thailand holds in Chatrakan District of Phitsanulok.

The outcome of the survey would be examined by a meeting, scheduled in December, of the Thai-Lao boundary committee led by Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan and his Lao counterpart Souban Salithilat, sources said.

According to Sqn Ldr Prasong, the political group also looked forward to the meeting, due to take place in the former Lao capital in Luang Prabang in August, of the Thai-Lao Joint Committee on Economic Cooperation.

The two sides further agreed to consider exemption of visa requirements for diplomatic and official passport holders.

Laos asked the Thai side to contemplate giving longer visas for Laotian students studying in Thailand.

The two sides also held consultations on the possibility of raising above ground—at costs to be equally shared—electricity cables now laid under the Mekong River, between Thailand's Nakhon Phanom province and Laos's Thakkhek and Mukdahan and Savannakhet.

Laotian Foreign Minister Somsavat Lengsavat, who led Laos to the political group discussions, said both sides "showed good intentions" to expand and firm up bilateral cooperation.

He sought more local level contacts through the setting up of friendship societies.

On the economic front, Laos reaffirmed that it would like to develop a tri-national link with Thailand and Vietnam along Highway 12. Deputy Prime Minister Supachai said.

The link would cut through Khammoune province in Laos and give the landlocked state exits to Thailand via Nakhon Phanom and to Vietnam at the port of Vinh.

According to Mr Supachai, Laos cited development reasons, saying that part of the country was earmarked in its current national development plan which, among other things, called for the construction of two dams at Nam Tha and Nam Ngum.

Mr Supachai said he would convey Laos's wish to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) meeting in Manila in August.

At the same time, Laos offered to let interested Thai businessmen survey a route that would link Chong Mek in Ubon Ratchathani with Pakse in Laos and dip south to the Cambodian border.

Laos has already allowed Thai businessmen to conduct surveys for lignite deposits along the route linking Chiang Khong District with Houey Sai and Luang Namtha in Laos, Mr Supachai said.

Otherwise, Laos proposed that Thailand reduce taxes on construction materials going into Laos and goods it is sending out to Thailand.

It also asked for measures to prevent double taxation. Thailand has already reduced the tax on processed wood destined for Laos, sources said.

Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office Sawit Photiwihok and his Laotian counterpart Phao Bounnaphon signed the memorandum on cooperation in the development of energy and electricity.

The agreement on investment co-operation, signed by Board of Investment secretary-general Sathaphon Kawitanon and Leuan Sombounkhan, deputy chairman of Laos's Committee for Planning and Cooperation, called on the two sides to exchange information on investment potential.

The two-year, renewable agreement also called on Thailand to help train Laotian investment officers.

Mr Chuan today is due to visit the Thai-Lao bridge built with Australian cooperation, pay a courtesy call on Laotian President Nouhak Phoumsavan, and fly north to Luang Prabang.

President Receives Delegation

BK0506142993 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] This morning at the Presidential Palace, His Excellency [H.E.] Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a courtesy call from the high-level delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, headed by H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai who is leading the delegation to pay an official friendship visit to the LPDR at the invitation of H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon.

During the conversation between the host and the guest, which proceeded in an atmosphere of friendship and intimacy of brotherliness and neighborliness, the LPDR president hailed and warmly welcomed the visit to Laos by the high-level delegation of the Thai Government headed by H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, saying that the visit was an important contribution to increasing, strengthening, and consolidating the long-standing traditional Lao-Thai relations of brotherliness with a new quality. President Nouhak Phoumsavan highly assessed the relations between Laos and Thailand in recent years, which have been successively developed and are growing. All this has been achieved thanks to the efforts made by the two sides, especially since the visit to Laos by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon in 1990, the visit to the Kingdom of Thailand by H.E. President Kaysone Phomvihan and H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon in early 1992, and the visit to Laos by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Thailand. These are important and auspicious historic events for the peoples of Laos and Thailand.

H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan expressed satisfaction with the consultations between the high-level delegations of the Lao and Thai Governments during the visit by H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his delegation, which enabled the two sides to develop better understanding, to exchange brotherly views, and to promote and solidify bilateral cooperation in various fields. H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan once again reiterated Laos' consistent adherence to the foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship, and cooperation so as to develop good relations with all countries in the world, especially the neighborly friendly countries, on the basis of the principle of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, equality, and mutual benefit.

H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan took the opportunity to convey his best wishes through H.E. Prime

Minister Chuan Likphai to His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, Her Majesty the Queen, and all members of the Thai royal family. H.E. President Nouhak Phoumsavan also wished that the visit to Laos by the high-level delegation of the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, headed by H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai, be crowned with brilliant success.

For his part, H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai expressed his gratitude toward the Lao Government and people for extending a warm welcome to him and his delegation during the visit to Laos, saying that the two countries have maintained close special relations, especially in the fields of language, religious faith, customs, traditions, and culture. H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai once again reiterated the Thai Government's unwavering policy to preserve and promote the relations with the LPDR. Invaluable history has pointed out that the close relations and mutual understanding and respect have been consistently maintained between the two countries. He noted that the visit to Laos by the high-level delegation of the Thai Government is to reiterate the desire of the Thai people to further strengthen these relations.

H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai expressed his belief that with the firm determination of the Lao and Thai Governments and peoples, together with a regional situation in which an opportunity for developing tranquillity has emerged, the two countries will be able together to create an atmosphere for promoting regional cooperation, thus bringing peace and happiness to the Lao and Thai peoples in the present and in the future.

Opens Seminar on Investment

BK0606090593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Yesterday at the Lan Xang Hotel in the capital, Vientiane, Laos' Foreign Investment Management Committee or FIMC and Thailand's Board of Investment or BoI jointly organized a seminar on investment in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

His Excellency Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, attended and gave an opening speech at the seminar. The Thai prime minister is currently paying an official friendship visit to the LPDR from 4 to 6 June as a high-level guest of the LPDR Government at the invitation of H.E. Prime Minister Siphandon. H.E. Khamphoui Keoboualapha, deputy prime minister of the LPDR and chairman of the Commission for Planning and Cooperation, ministers, high-level cadres, and a large number of Lao and Thai businessmen also attended the seminar.

At this seminar on investment in the LPDR, the two sides were expected to exchange views on investment, resulting in a rapid development of trade and investment between the two countries. In addition, data on investment in the two countries would be exchanged. The Thai side has pledged to assist Laos in training investment

promotion personnel. The two sides were to agree on promoting several investment projects together at the seminar.

It is well-known that since 1988 the Kingdom of Thailand has become the number-one investor in Laos, with a total investment of U.S. \$159 million, thereby resulting in successful economic development beneficial for both countries.

Chuan Briefs Press, Leaves for North

BK0606080393 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 5 Jun 93

[Text] At 1130 on 5 June at the Prime Minister's Office of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], His Excellency [H.E.] Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and his delegation gave a press conference to a large number of Lao and Thai press reporters and representatives of foreign news agencies in Laos on the outcome of their official friendship visit to the LPDR.

At the press conference, H.E. Chuan Likphai informed the press of the scope of cooperation in the communications and transport work [between the two countries], such as the construction of Route 12 in the near future to link Nakhon Phanom in Thailand and Thakhek in Laos with Vinh in Vietnam. In addition, a route linking Chiang Khong in Thailand with Luang Namtha in Laos and a route from Ubon Ratchathani in Thailand to Pakse in Laos to link up with Phnom Penh in Cambodia will be built in the future and will become important highways.

With regard to Lao refugees [in Thailand], the two countries are currently holding consultations at the foreign ministerial level. These refugees should be well taken care of after they are repatriated to their native villages, and receive the same treatment as Cambodian refugees [recently repatriated from Thailand] received. At present, there are an estimated 37,000 Lao refugees residing in Thailand. Their repatriation will be coordinated by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In closing, H.E. Chuan Likphai pointed out that the Thai and Lao Governments are always desirous that Cambodia enjoys peace and tranquillity and that the Cambodian people enjoy a state of well-being.

At 1400 on the same day at the Government Guest House, H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon also saw off H.E. Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, and his delegation before they departed for a friendship visit to Luang Prabang Province en route for home. They were accompanied on the trip by H.E. Foreign Affairs Minister Somsavat Lengsavat.

Hydroelectric Project Discussed

BK0606021493 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Jun 93 p 4

[Text] Thailand has asked Laos to consider launching a project to produce 1,500 megawatts of hydro-electricity and has given an assurance that it would provide a market for the power.

Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office Sawit Phothiwihok said Thailand would buy the electricity at a fair price and relay some of it to Laotian provinces along the Mekong River border.

The project would be of short and long-term interest to Laos as hydroelectricity was its biggest and most important source of foreign exchange, he said.

But the project would require the setting up of several dams, costing 50,000 million baht, and take several years to complete, the minister said.

Laos, however, has agreed to find investors for it.

As part of Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's official visit to Laos, Thailand and Laos on Friday signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the development of electricity.

Laos has said it plans to set up seven new hydro-electric projects with a combined generating capacity of 2,690 megawatts by the year 2,000.

To meet this target, Laotian officials reportedly have discussed investment and joint venture possibilities with governments and private sectors in Australia, Japan, Sweden and Thailand.

The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) has made known its interest in increasing electricity purchases to 1,500 megawatts.

But senior EGAT officials have stressed that it must be sold on a firm basis and at a fair price.

Mr Chuan, who on Friday [4 June] also witnessed the signing of an investment promotion agreement, yesterday urged Thai and Laotian businessmen to proceed carefully in activities in which both sides seek profit.

He admitted to Lao leaders that Thai businessmen operating in Laos were a mixed group, some good and others not.

But he stressed that this was a matter of individuals, not of the country.

He said it would be a pity for Laos not to cooperate with a country situated closest to it.

He pointed out that Thailand and Laos shared potential for economic development.

During a speech delivered on Friday night at a dinner in his honour, Mr Chuan said the setting of long-term

compatible objectives would help boost the preparedness of both sides to face change in international economic relations.

Mr Chuan paid a courtesy call on Laotian President Nouhak Phoumsavan before flying north to Luang Prabang yesterday afternoon.

Cambodia was a main topic in talks on Friday between Mr Chuan and his, host Laotian Premier Khamtai Siph-andon.

Both sides affirmed that they wanted to see peace in Cambodia.

According to Government Spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa, the talks also touched on Laos's status as observer to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Laos obtained this status in July last year and for the first time is to attend the annual ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Singapore next month.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, elaborating on Friday's discussions on the problem of Laotian refugees, said both sides agreed that the returnees should be assured safety and socio-economic security in their new lives.

But he said the repatriation operation also concerned a third party, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Thailand on Friday emphasised that it has no policy to support Laotian rebels.

But it urged Laos to speed up the repatriation of refugees still in Thai camps to weaken the strength of the rebels using them as bases.

An estimated 30,000 Laotian refugees remain to be repatriated by 1994.

Chuan Visits Luang Prabang, Departs

BK0706162193 Vientiane Vittayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] On the afternoon of 6 June, His Excellency [H.E.] Chuan Likphai, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, led the high-level delegation of the Thai government to return home after ending a two-day visit to Luang Prabang Province.

During his stay in Luang Prabang Province, H.E. Chuan Likphai and his party were accorded a warm welcome by Chansi Phosikham, governor of Luang Prabang Province, and the provincial leadership and a large number of local residents.

In the province, H.E. Chuan Likphai and his party paid homage to the Buddha image at Vat Siang Thong temple where eight monks gave a chanting to bless their visit. The Thai prime minister presented a set of yellow robes

to the monks at the temple. After that the high-level Thai visitors proceeded to visit the Luang Prabang Museum and climbed up the Phousi Mount to enjoy the panorama of the capital city.

At 1800 on 5 June at the [name indistinct] hotel, the Luang Prabang provincial governor and residents hosted a Basi blessing ceremony for the visitors and hosted a banquet in honor of the Thai prime minister and his party. After the banquet, they were entertained with the Luang Prabang folk arts performance and the mass Lamvong dancing.

At 0800 on 6 June, H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai visited the [word indistinct] cave which is a natural tourist attraction spot in the province, (?walked around) the market, and paid a (?silverware shop) [words indistinct] at Ban Vat That village in Luang Prabang district capital.

A grand farewell ceremony for H.E. Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his party was held at the Luang Prabang airport [on the same day]. Seeing the Thai government delegation off at the airport were Foreign Minister H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat; Chansi Phosikham, governor of Luang Prabang Province; Nikhom Tantsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos; and a large number of local residents.

Japan Signs Memorandum on Agricultural Center
BK3105045093 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] A ceremony was held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on the afternoon of 28 May to sign a memorandum on a (?feasibility study) and the mapping out of a comprehensive rural and agricultural development program for the marker KM-35 area in Champhon District, Savannakhet Province with aid worth U.S. \$15 million from the Japanese Government.

The memorandum spelled out measures for technical consultation and joint operations between the two sides which will be launched in the near future.

In the beginning, the two sides will cooperate with each other in laying down a preliminary plan and in mapping out detailed projects for the program for implementation in four major areas, namely a project to build two irrigation facilities at Houai Gnot Bang and Houai Nam Phou with a total capacity for irrigating 1,000 hectares of land, a project to build an agricultural promotion center, a project to improve a 30-km road in the rural and agricultural development area at marker KM-35, and a project to build 10 artesian wells. In addition, the Japanese side will provide mechanized equipment for use in operations for effective management.

The comprehensive rural and agricultural program at marker KM-35 in Savannakhet Province is the second

development program next to the Tha Ngon plain development program which has been funded with Japanese Government aid in recent years.

Signing the memorandum on behalf of the Lao side were Alom Thavonsouk, deputy chief of the office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry; and Soukkaseum Phothisan, deputy governor and head of the Agricultural and Forestry Service of Savannakhet Province; and on the Japanese side (Taru Okide), deputy director of the irrigation and water drainage project of Japan.

The signing ceremony was held in the presence of Phimpha Thepkhamheuang, deputy minister of agriculture and forestry; and high-ranking personnel concerned from the two sides.

Deputy Prime Minister Interviewed on Economy, Prospects

BK2805104293 Singapore BUSINESS TIMES in English 27 May 93 p 27

[Article by Harish Mehta Based on Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha in Vientiane entitled: "The Strongman of Lao Investments Speaks"—date not given]

[Text] IN LAOS, his is a household name. For the last 21 years, Khamphoui Keoboualapha, a stocky man with a penchant for safari suits, has served as one of two Laotian Deputy Prime Ministers. It appears that he will hang in there.

"He is a man of business," said a Lao government official. "And he has a sense of humour."

Both these qualities were evident when this correspondent met Mr Khamphoui recently at his office in Vientiane.

After spelling out the main planks of his country's economic strategy, he quipped: "Laos will get more foreign investments if BUSINESS TIMES provides good coverage."

Mr Khamphoui laughed heartily, and quickly got back to business. He began talking about new legislation to create a more liberal investment climate. The new enterprise law, he said, would give more incentives to investors.

Following the death of President Kaysone Phomvihan last November, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon reshuffled the Cabinet early this year. The reshuffle, to an extent, affected Mr Khamphoui.

He had served as the Lao Minister of Economy, Planning and Finance for the last 21 years, but early this year, the post was split into two, and he was left heading the new Committee for Planning and Cooperation.

But he remained Deputy Prime Minister in status, so did Phoun Sipaseut, 72.

Mr Phoun, too, had some of his responsibilities taken away. He was removed from his post as foreign minister, and the job was given to Somsavat Lengsavat. Mr Phoun had been tipped to become the new prime minister after Mr Kaysone died, but that was not to be.

In his current capacity, Mr Kamphoui looks after his country's foreign investment programme, privatisation and statistics.

Between September 1988 and December 1992, foreign investors pumped in US\$500 million into Laos. Apart from the low level of investments, Mr Kamphoui has another complaint. Most of the foreign investments have entered the country's service, trading, hotels and tourism sectors, and "none in the agriculture and heavy industry," he said.

Apart from the welter of light industrial projects, the sole semiheavy project is but a proposal still—by Singapore's Guthrie Detico to build a 70,000-tonne-a-year cement plant in Saravane province. Lao sources said that Guthrie may invest about US\$6 million in the venture.

But restaurants run by foreigners have mushroomed. Frenchman Patrick Gay recently opened a French eatery called Le Santal. "In the 13th and 14th centuries, Le Santal was the name of Vientiane," Mr Gay said.

Laos is now considering reducing royalties that mining and oil companies are charged. Mr Kamphoui said that they deserved incentives on account of their "high investment and long gestation period before profits can be earned".

Some of the oil and mining companies currently exploring for resources in Laos have asked for these incentives.

One of the three Western oil companies exploring in Laos is the American Hunt Oil Co. Its vice-president, Christopher Stone, who has been based in Vientiane for a year, said the Lao government had been extremely cooperative. Hunt Oil has completed its seismic surveys and is now considering whether to drill or not.

While trying to build up Laos' industries, Mr Kamphoui accepts that agriculture will remain the pillar for some time yet.

"Our main economic policy till the year 2000 is based on agriculture and the export of agricultural goods," he said.

Beyond those priorities, Laos has an endless shopping list. It wants to add more hydroelectric power generation capacity, and improve transportation and communication between Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

It also wants to improve the airports at Vientiane and the historic city of Luang Prabang, and develop a modern telecommunications system.

Mr Kamphoui said that Singapore companies had invested only about US\$12 million in Laos, and he

hoped that more would enter the country soon. Other than Guthrie Detico, which has also built the Belvedere Hotel, Singapore firms that have invested in the country are small traders such as United Products and Lao Oriental Trading.

A Singapore businessman based in Vientiane said: "Once air links are established with Singapore, we can expect a rush of investors coming to Laos."

Besides lacking air links, Laos has been hobbled because it is landlocked. Mr Kamphoui then raised his favourite topic: getting the Vietnamese to build a deep-sea port in the Vietnamese town of Quang Binh. Laos is keen to see that happen as it will reduce its dependence on the overland trade route through Thailand.

Thai businessmen have virtually monopolised the Lao-tian market and the Lao dislike this.

But Mr Kamphoui hedged: "It's rather difficult to say whether there is too much Thai investment in Laos. They are more developed than us, and we need more investments.

"Most of the industrial goods in our market are from Thailand, but we'd like to invite other investors as well. When investors from other countries enter Laos, the Thai presence will be reduced somewhat."

Both the Thai Military Bank and Siam Commercial Bank operate a branch each in Vientiane. And the Bank of Ayutthaya, Thai Farmers Bank and Krung Thai Bank are soon expected to open branches.

Besides, Thai money is backing two other banks in the country—Joint Development Bank and Vientiane Commercial Bank.

But Mr Kamphoui does not think this is one Thai bank too many. "We are ready to approve proposals from other countries banks. We feel that we have good economic growth to sustain many banks," he said.

Indeed, Laos grew at the remarkable rate of over 7 per cent last year. While the agriculture and manufacturing sectors generated much of the growth, foreign capital also provided a spur.

There is negative factor, though. It is often said that Laos can be easily destabilised by the anti-communist rebels based in hideouts on the Thai side of the Thai-Lao border.

However, the rebels, loyal to the former king, have proved to be quite ineffective, and no longer appeal to most Lao people.

Since Laos opened its doors in 1986, it has been "satisfied with the economic and political stability", Mr Kamphoui said.

Philippines

Europe Bumps Japan as 2d Largest Export Market

HK0806025093 Manila *BUSINESS WORLD* in English 8 Jun 93 pp 1, 5

[Report by Genevieve I. Soledad]

[Text] Europe has dislodged Japan as the country's second biggest export market. Trade and Industry Undersecretary Cesar Bautista told a press conference yesterday.

The trend goes against earlier predictions that local exports to Europe might shrink due to the perceived protectionism among members of the European Community (EC).

Mr Bautista, who heads the DTI's [Department of Trade Industry] International Trade Group, said the Philippines' exports to the EC and the European Free Trade Area (EFTA) [as published] last year already hit \$1.928 billion. This constituted 19.6% of total exports.

In contrast, exports to Japan reached only a total value of \$1.745 billion, or 17.8% of the Philippines' total exports to the world.

"For the first time, Europe has displaced Japan as our second biggest market," said Mr Bautista.

"And this happened at a time when Europe was already in a recession. So you can see there are quite a lot of opportunities even if their economy is not so good and as long as you have industries that are competitive," the trade official pointed out.

In 1991, the country's exports to Japan added up to \$1.763 billion, or 19.9% of total exports while exports to EC/EFTA totalled to \$1.708 billion or 19.3% of total.

The DTI added that the Philippines stands on firm ground as far as its trade relationship with Europe is concerned.

The country had a trade surplus of \$77 million with Europe last year with total imports valued at \$1.852 billion.

The Philippines has always had a positive balance of trade with Europe since 1988, with the trade surplus hitting a high level of \$349 million in 1991.

The country's exports to the EC are heavily made up of consumer manufactures (36%), mostly garment products, followed by industrial manufactures (34%).

Resource-based products take up a 19% slice of exports to EC/EFTA while food and food preparations and special transactions account for 8.54% and 1.81%.

Philippine imports from the EC, on the other hand, are composed mostly of capital goods (46.17%), followed by raw materials and intermediate goods (38.98%) and consumer goods (12.48%).

Broken down by country, the Philippines' major markets in the EC are Germany, eating up \$522 million or 5.31% of total exports; the United Kingdom with \$467 million or 4.75%; the Netherlands with \$460 million or 4.14%, and France with \$179 million or 1.82\$.

The DTI said exports to the EC could have been even higher were it not for the following adverse factors: the recession which plagued most of the EC countries; growing environmental concern; the ongoing reunification of Germany; and the series of currency devaluations in and around the European Monetary System.

The EC has also issued directives which are seen as barriers to Philippine exports. These are the acid insoluble matter (AIM) content cap imposed on carrageenin products and the aflatoxin ceiling slapped on copra exports.

The DTI added that there is one major event in the EC which will heavily affect RP [Republic of the Philippines]-EC trade in 1993 and this is the creation of the European single market made up of 340 million people with a combined gross domestic product of \$6 billion.

"The market will offer new opportunities as well as threats to Philippine exporters," the DTI said.

1st Quarter Trade Deficit Widens to \$1.3 Billion

HK0206054693 Manila *MANILA BULLETIN* in English 2 Jun 93 p B-1

[Text] The country's trade deficit widened by 37 percent to \$1.32 billion in the first quarter, with the power crisis driving up imports of generators and specialized machineries.

The National Statistics Office reported yesterday that total export earnings rose by 7.1 percent to \$2.44 billion compared to the same period last year, while import payments rose by close to 16 percent to \$3.75 billion. The deficit stood at \$959 million in the first quarter of 1992.

Imports of generator sets and related equipment shot up by 31.5 percent on an annual basis in March, with payments totaling \$173.48 million which constituted 12.5 percent of total import payments, it said.

Electronics and components, comprising mainly of microcircuits, semi-conductor devices and finished electrical and electronic machinery and parts, topped the export list in March with \$434.99 million.

In March alone, imports reached \$1.39 billion, 19.3 percent higher than the comparative figure last year. Exports, on the other hand, slowed to \$837 million in the same month from the year-ago level of \$898 million.

1st Quarter Labor Productivity Down 4.1 Percent
HK0806091393 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 8 Jun 93 p 14

[Text] Labor productivity declined in the first quarter from its level in the same period last year. Based on Business World computations using data from the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB), labor productivity declined 4.1% to P7,120 [Philippine pesos] per worker. Compared with its level in the fourth quarter last year, productivity dropped 14.3% from P8,307 per worker.

Labor productivity was computed by dividing each industry's real output or gross value added over the number of employed persons. The decline in productivity can be traced to higher employment in January and the lower gross domestic product (GDP) or the aggregate value of goods and services produced in the country in the first quarter.

The NSO reported the total number of persons employed, as of the last week in January, increased to 23.972 million from 23.917 million in October. Employment likewise grew by 935,000 year-on-year from 23.032 million in January 1992. Meanwhile, the country's GDP, valued at constant 1985 prices, declined by P289 million to P170.55 billion from P170.84 billion in first quarter 1992. On a quarter-on-quarter analysis, GDP deteriorated by as much as 14.1% or some P23.94 billion from P198.49 billion in the fourth quarter last year. The much higher GDP reported in the last quarter of 1992 was associated with increased business activities due to the holiday season.

Workers in the agriculture, fishery and forestry sector suffered a 4.1% decline in productivity to P3,776 per worker from P3,937 in the same period last year. Each worker in the industry sector also registered a P485 decline in productivity. In particular, average productivity of laborers in the manufacturing industry went down 5.2% to P17,243 per worker while those in the electricity, gas and water industry recorded a 10.6% drop to P46,267.

In contrast, two industries—mining and quarrying, and construction—managed to post increased productivity, reporting a 19.1% increase to P20,162 and 3.4% to P6,530, respectively. Meanwhile, productivity in the services sector dropped 2.3% to P7,805 per worker. Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor earlier explained, job-sharing has become a trend and is evident in the manufacturing sector where increased employment was coupled with negative growth in output.

1st Quarter Foreign Investments Up 88 Percent
HK3105065093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 31 May 93 p 18

[Report by Almira Francisca R. Hernandez]

[Text] Direct foreign equity investments surged 87.55 percent to \$147.74 million in the first quarter from

\$78.77 million the same period a year ago, data from Central Bank show.

This developed as investor confidence continued to pick up since the beginning of the year, Central Bank earlier said.

Investments from the United Kingdom accounted for the biggest share at \$49.45 million. This represented 33.5 percent of the aggregate.

This was followed by the British Virgin Islands and Japan at \$26.55 million and \$20.71 million, respectively.

During the same period last year, the United States topped the list with \$26.71 million in direct investments.

However, in the first quarter this year, investments from the U.S. declined substantially to \$10.34 million.

Lower investments were also recorded from Hong Kong. Capital infusion was at \$5.81 million compared with \$7.26 million a year ago.

Most of the investments were channeled to the manufacturing sector. During the period, this industry received \$71.03 million, up 45.40 percent from \$48.85 million last year. Investments in this sector accounted for 48.08 percent of the total.

Financial institutions followed, receiving a total of \$35.39 million, an improvement of 314.77 percent from last year's \$8.53 million.

Meanwhile, equity infusion in public utilities registered at \$31.22 million. Direct foreign investments in this industry exhibited the highest growth of 2,807 percent.

On the other hand, declines were traced in the mining, commerce, and construction industries.

Foreign investments in the mining sector went down 86.38 percent to \$1.42 million. Such decline can be attributed to generally low metal prices in the world market.

In the commerce and construction industries, investments slipped 55.30 percent and 35.23 percent, respectively.

| Direct Foreign Investments | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------|
| First Quarter, 1993 (in Million US\$) | | | |
| Sector | First Quarter 1993 | First Quarter 1992 | % Change |
| Financial Institutions | 35.39 | 8.53 | 314.77 |
| Manufacturing | 71.03 | 48.85 | 45.40 |
| Mining | 1.42 | 10.39 | (86.38) |
| Commerce | 3.54 | 7.91 | (55.30) |

Direct Foreign Investments**First Quarter, 1993 (in Million US\$) (Continued)**

| Sector | First Quarter 1993 | First Quarter 1992 | % Change |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Services | 4.53 | 1.15 | 292.11 |
| Public Utility | 31.22 | 1.07 | 2,806.98 |
| Agriculture, Fishery, & Forest | 0.10 | 0.05 | 79.63 |
| Construction | 0.52 | 0.81 | (35.23) |
| TOTAL | 147.74 | 78.77 | 87.55 |

Source: Central Bank

Top Ten Foreign Investors**First Quarter, 1993 (in Million US\$)**

| | First Quarter 1993 | First Quarter 1992 | % Change |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| United Kingdom | 49.45 | 0.53 | 9,283.11 |
| British Virgin Islands | 26.55 | 1.45 | 1,735.96 |
| Japan | 20.71 | 20.23 | 2.40 |
| United States | 10.34 | 26.71 | (61.29) |
| Luxembourg | 8.01 | 0.58 | 1,271.06 |
| Germany | 6.32 | 1.43 | 340.96 |
| Hong Kong | 5.81 | 7.26 | (19.93) |
| Bermuda | 3.24 | 0.05 | 6,650.00 |
| Ireland | 2.28 | 0.00 | — |
| Singapore | 1.90 | 1.70 | 11.87 |
| Others | 13.13 | 18.84 | (30.33) |
| TOTAL | 147.74 | 78.77 | 87.56 |

Source: Central Bank

Faulty Wiring, Arson Cited in Basilan Fire**HK0906003093 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 8 Jun 93**

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] More than P100 million [Philippine peso] worth of property turned to ashes last night in Basilan. The Basilan capitol burned down just before midnight, allegedly because of faulty electrical wiring.

Also razed were the nearby fire station, police station, and provincial telephone office. Among the other offices burned were the governor's office, provincial board session hall, and the offices of the provincial assessor, treasurer, budget manager, and auditor and the provincial library.

No casualties were reported but all the records kept at the capitol were destroyed.

Nevertheless, Armed Forces chief General Lisandro Abadia said the fire was merely a police matter. He ordered the 3d Marine Brigade in Basilan to help in the investigation.

An explosion was also reported in a house and police outpost in barangay Dinuguan. It was still being determined whether this explosion was related to the capitol fire.

Meanwhile, Senator Santanina Rasul hopes the present peace and order situation in Mindanao—especially in Sulu, Tawitawi and Basilan—does not lead to militarization.

She said the National Unification Commission should immediately set the guidelines regarding the peace negotiations with the rebels.

Philippine National Police deputy director Pantaleon Dumla, on the other hand, said arson is the likely cause of the Basilan fire. He said the fire was simultaneous with two other fires within the capitol compound, which razed the offices of the Commission on Elections and the Treasurer's Office. The Commission on Audit was preparing a status report on Basilan which raised the possibility that the fire was intentional.

Dumla also rejected speculation that the Abu Sayyaf [Muslim rebel] group was responsible because its stronghold was too far away from Isabela Town, where the fire occurred.

NUC Authorized To Decide Venue for Talks With MNLF**HK3105051693 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 29 May 93**

[Text] President Ramos has authorized the National Unification Commission to decide on the venue for the forthcoming formal peace talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF]. According to the president, although the government is open to any of Misuari's proposed venues, it would be better if the government and the MNLF agreed on the venue of the talks.

Meanwhile, Congressman Nur Jaffar of Tawi-tawi said the peace talks are likely to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, where earlier exploratory discussions were held. According to Jaffar, Misuari has expressed his willingness to personally head the MNLF's peace panel, but fears returning to the Philippines. Misuari claims that holding the talks in the country would leave the discussions open to sabotage.

Armed Forces Prepare To Revert to Defense Role**HK0206054493 Quezon City MALAYA in English 2 Jun 93 p 3**

[Report by Noel Bartolome]

[Text] The armed forces will turn over all its counterinsurgency operations to the Philippine National Police [PNP] by the end of next year if the law creating the PNP is not amended and if the PNP is ready to handle the anti-rebel operations. Gen Lisandro Abadia, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, said yesterday.

"By the end of 1994, internal security missions will be transferred to the PNP since the law requires a transition period from 1991 to 1995, unless the law is amended," Abadia said.

Abadia said the AFP is already preparing an external defense plan. As part of the external defense posture, the Air Force revived gunnery exercises in Palawan.

Abadia said more military exercises will also be conducted as part of the overall military preparedness.

Commission Faces Dilemma on Talks With Rebels

BK0306152193 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 3 Jun 93

[Text] The National Unification Commission [NUC] admitted today that it is confused over which faction of the National Democratic Front [NDF] it should negotiate with as part of the Ramos government's peace process.

NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac told Press Secretary Jesus Sison that the NUC is still trying to decide which of the two NDF groups to talk peace with to ensure the success of the peace process.

Malacanang has learned that Jose Maria Sison's group has 25 followers in the Netherlands, including Luis Jalandoni [chairman of the NDF], while the Byron (Bocar) of Verdaderos group has 125 members in that country.

The NUC stressed that it does not recognize Frank Fernandez as NDF secretary general and Sison's representative in the Philippines.

Thailand

Factors Affecting Censure Debate Outlined

BK0806054193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Jun 93 p 5

[by Soemsuk Kasitpradit]

[Text] Never before in Thai political history has a government been overthrown from office by a no-confidence vote. But it is the actual number of "confidence" votes—those cast by coalition MPs [members of Parliament] to support Cabinet members—that counts. Depending on how large or small the vote of confidence is, it might eventually lead to political change.

The opposition parties have submitted two no-confidence motions against the Chuan Government. The Chat Phatthana Party's motion calls for a censure debate against the entire Cabinet while the other motion, supported by the Chat Thai Party, calls for debate to censure individual Cabinet members.

According to House Speaker Marut Bunnak, MPs will vote separately on the two motions: One for a vote of confidence for the Government and the other for the five Cabinet ministers targeted for censure.

According to regulations stipulated in the present Constitution, the vote of confidence will be called one day after Parliament ended its no-confidence debate.

Democrat Party deputy leader Thoetphong Chaiyanan, who is chairman of the coalition parties coordinating committee, told the BANGKOK POST that he was not worried about the outcome of the vote for the Government. He is confident that "all government MPs would toe the Government's line and give their support."

It is normal practice that the opposition parties would unite to cast their "votes of no-confidence" against the Government or individual ministers, while government MPs would cast their "votes of confidence" for the Government and individual ministers.

The five coalition parties command 206 votes in Parliament against the Opposition's 153 votes. One government MP, Akon Huntrakun, has resigned and a by-election will be held on July 11.

Mr Thoetphong, who is a Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, said he was concerned about the number of "confidence votes" for the five Cabinet ministers targeted for censure under the Chat Thai Party's motion.

Political observer agree that it is unlikely for the Opposition to win a vote of no-confidence against the Government since no government MPs will break ranks on this. But they doubt that all government MPB will cast their vote for the five ministers targeted by the Chat Thai Party.

The five ministers are Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut (New Aspiration), Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri (Phalang Tham), Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon (Solidarity), Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin (Democrat) and Deputy Communications Minister Thawi Kraikup (New Aspiration).

In October 1986, during Gen. Prem Tinsulanon's administration, it was the low vote of confidence given to the then commerce minister Surat Osathanukroh that eventually led to political changes at the time. Pol Capt [Police Captain] Surat won the vote of confidence but he got only 120 votes from 232 government MPs in Parliament.

The Opposition, which had 115 MPs, registered 109 votes of no-confidence against him.

Constitutionally, Cabinet members would be automatically ousted from office if more than half of members of the House of Representatives give them a vote of no-confidence.

However, this is not always a guarantee of survival for the individual minister in Thai politics.

During the vote of confidence for Pol Capt Surat, all 100 Democrat MPs withdrew their support for the minister, whose integrity was strongly questioned by the Democrat Party.

A month later, Pol Capt Surat was forced to resign his Cabinet post. He was replaced by then Social Action Party deputy leader Montri Phongphanit.

One key Chat Thai executive member said the number of votes for Mr Tharin and Mr Thawi might lead to political change, and this might give his party a chance to be included in the new government line-up.

"If Khun Tharin gets fewer votes of confidence than Khun Thawi it will cause political problems for the Government. If this happens, political change is unavoidable," the Chat Thai member said, adding that the move to include Mr Thawi in the party motion was a political strategy.

However, he said Prime Minister Chuan Likphai "would do his utmost to ensure that such political development would not occur."

One key Democrat member close to Prime Minister Chuan said the Prime Minister is a strong supporter of the Finance Minister. "I don't think that the Premier would let Khun Tharin down during the no-confidence debate," the Democrat MP said.

Professor Kroekiat Phiphatseritham, an executive member in the National Economic and Social Development Board, has voiced his support for the Government's strong action against stock manipulators.

A number of alleged manipulators, namely Song Watcharasirot and Wichai Kristsathanon, are known to be close to New Aspiration Party (NAP) leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Mr Thawi, who is also a NAP executive member.

Another member in the coalition parties' coordinating committee, Mr Amnuai Suwannakiri, said he was worried about internal conflicts in the coalition Government.

"We have raised the matter with key members in the coalition parties. If the problem could be solved then I foresee no political problem after the no-confidence debate. But if they could not settle the internal rifts, then there might be political problems," said the seven-time Democrat MP for Songkhla.

There was much concern that some NAP members might withhold their support for Finance Minister Tharin, giving him fewer votes than Mr Thawi.

Mr Thawi had earlier named "Mr T" as one of the major stock manipulators. Though he did not elaborate, it was widely speculated that the "Mr T" in question was the Finance Minister.

Mr Thawi's allegation angered a number of Democrat members, who reportedly threatened to withhold their support for him during the censure debate, which starts tomorrow.

"Khun Thawi has no choice left under the present political situation. He has to follow the party's resolutions or else he would face problems in the party," said a NAP executive member, who maintained that the deputy communications minister might be expelled from the party if he refused to vote for all censured ministers.

"He (Mr Thawi) has a number of followers in the party but I doubt whether these men dare to disobey the party's resolutions," said the NAP member.

However, he admitted that it was likely that Mr Thawi might not get support from a number of disgruntled NAP MPs who wanted to see the deputy minister removed from the Cabinet.

Under this scenario, a Cabinet reshuffle might be limited to only one minister—Mr Thawi.

During last week's meeting of key coalition members at the Siam City Hotel, Democrat Party secretary-general Sanan Khachonprasat stressed that the Government had no plan, for the time being, to reshuffle the Cabinet after the no-confidence debate.

"If there is strong unity among the coalition parties during the no-confidence debate then one can rule out any political change," Maj-Gen Sanan told the BANGKOK POST.

However, the Democrat secretary-general made it clear that a major political change might be inevitable if other coalition parties double-cross his party during the voting for the five ministers.

"I don't think that our party would stand idle if Khun Tharin is double-crossed during the voting which results in his getting fewer votes of confidence than Khun Thawi. This would be totally unacceptable to us," said Maj-Gen Sanan.

He stressed that unity among the five coalition parties would decide the fate of the coalition Government.

SAP Expels Controversial MP Prior to Debate

BK0806145593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The Social Action Party [SAP] held a meeting at 1600 today to decide whether or not to expel MP Piyanat Watcharaphon of Sisaket Province from the party.

Talking to newsmen before attending the party meeting, Piyanat said he could not reveal whether or not to quit the party because he did not want to commit himself to any kind of a statement. Piyanat admitted that it was the most difficult time in his life—when he had to make a very difficult decision and while suffering from bitterness. He said that from talking with the people he respected he realized who his true friends were. He said he had to, as a human being, make this important decision. He wished to have an opportunity to discuss it with the SAP leader, but he did not know whether he would have that opportunity. He admitted the important role of the SAP leader in making this decision.

At 1730, Piyanat left the meeting accompanied by SAP MP Aram Amaradit who walked him to his car. Piyanat refused to talk to newsmen, saying he would speak only at the right moment and would rather let the party make the announcement.

The Public Relations Department's correspondent Somphon Kitphonprasoet then reported from the SAP headquarters at 1800 that SAP Leader Montri Phongphanit announced after the meeting that the party Executive Committee voted to have Piyanat Watcharaphon, party spokesman, resign his party membership. Thirty five members of the 37-man executive committee were present at the meeting to cast their votes. Thirty-one voted for the expulsion of Piyanat, with four absents. The four who abstained from voting are: Danairit Watcharaphon, Aram Amaradit, Montri Phongphanit, and Piyanat Watcharaphon.

SAP Leader Montri Phongphanit said the party would send a written report to the Interior Ministry on the decision today to have Piyanat resign from the party. He said the party meeting had been videotaped throughout as evidence. A party member, Rakkiat Sukthana, added that the committee's decision to have Piyanat resign as party member was based on the reason that, since joining the party, Piyanat had endlessly created controversy through political activities and interviews with the mass media which were damaging to the party's image as well as affecting the image of the coalition parties. Besides, Piyanat often took sides with the opposition parties leading the public to think there was a lack of unity and stability among the coalition parties.

Chuan Comments on Upcoming Censure Debate

BK0906021993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 9 Jun 93 pp 1, 3

[Text] PRIME Minister Chuan Likphai yesterday said his Cabinet would refuse to answer any questions

relating to their personal affairs during the censure debate against his government which starts today.

"I have no explanation to make about my personal life," he said.

Mr Chuan said his Cabinet, who he is confident will perform well in the debate, was ready to reply to any opposition allegations concerning their work. He then accused the media of "playing the Opposition's game" by highlighting its strategy to attack him on his family life.

"I feel sorry that you people have allowed yourselves to be part of their game."

Mr Chuan said reporters had become the tool of the Opposition in preying on the Government by basing their questions on fabricated information and otherwise playing the Opposition's game. But he said he remained confident in the performance of his coalition and still could not imagine what the Opposition would raise to criticise his administration, particularly on points of corruption.

The Premier, when asked if his government was ready for the censure debate, said: I haven't heard the questions of the Opposition yet.

"This whole exercise is aimed at toppling the Government. The target is to expel Cabinet ministers or the Government. The censure debate is an exercise in expelling the Government."

He said he had not heard what the Opposition had to say about his administration during the debate which is expected to last three days. But he was confident the Cabinet ministers targeted for censure today would be able to explain away any allegations raised by the Opposition.

The Government yesterday formed a committee comprising all deputy prime ministers and coalition party representatives to coordinate moves to counter the Opposition in Parliament during the debate.

The government parliamentary coordination committee headed by PM's Office Minister Thoetphong Chaiyanan has agreed to push for a simultaneous debate on the Chat Thai Party censure motion and that of the other opposition parties. Mr Thoetphong said the Cabinet had no objection to his committee's opinion that the two censure motions should be debated together. He said the Cabinet yesterday said very little about the censure debate because it was confident in the coordination committee.

All five coalition parties resolved at separate meetings yesterday that all their MPs would cast their votes uniformly in support of all Cabinet ministers censured by the Opposition.

Interior Minister and New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut said his party MPs would

attend today's Lower House meeting in full force and would strictly comply with the party resolution to cast their votes in support of the coalition. He denied reports his party wanted the Lower House to vote on the Chat Thai motion, which seeks to censure individual ministers, first. He said the NAP would comply with the coalition's resolution that the Chat Phatthana motion, which targets the entire Cabinet, be voted on first.

Gen Chawalit said he was confident in the integrity of all party members appointed to sit in the Chuan Cabinet. He said he believed Deputy Transport and Communications Minister Thawi Kraikhup (NAP), one of the five individual Cabinet ministers targeted in the Chat Thai's motion, would receive sufficient support from Lower House members when the votes are cast.

Other Cabinet ministers also expressed readiness to face the no confidence debate.

Deputy Prime Minister Banyat Bantathan said censure motions were normal in a democratic system and the Government was not worried. He said the Prime Minister and all 44 Cabinet ministers were confident the Government would survive both motions even though there may be some concern about them.

"Whether it's the motion to censure individual ministers or the motion to oust the Prime Minister and the entire Cabinet, we are sure we will survive it," he said.

Mr Banyat said this confidence stemmed from the fact that corruption—the main cause for a government to suffer sleepless nights—had been nonexistent during the current administration's eight months in office. But the Opposition said yesterday it would seek to prove during the censure debate starting today at 9.30 a.m. that there had been corruption.

Some 60 farmers from Lop Buri brought by the Democrat MP for the province, Niphon Thataphum, yesterday vouched their moral support for the Prime Minister at Government House. Mr Chuan was attending a Cabinet meeting and so delegated Mr Banyat to meet the farmers instead.

Commerce Minister Uthai Pimchaichon (Solidarity) said he was not worried the Opposition would bring up alleged corruption in the tapioca export quota. He said there was no corruption involved and the quota greatly benefited the people. He will explain the issue to Parliament, giving reasons, he said.

Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri (Phalang Tham), another target of the censure debate, said he and his ministry were ready to explain any charge, be it border problems with neighbouring countries or the visit by the Nobel Peace laureates earlier this year. Sqn Ldr Prasong said Thailand had observed strictly the United Nations resolutions on Cambodia and could not violate them as a member country.

Although Thailand is perceived by the international community as having a special relationship with the

Khmer Rouge, Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong insisted Thailand still had a good reputation among the international community. He said this was because Thailand had suffered from corruption, coup d'état and human rights issues, but had always resolved these problems.

"Personally, I feel that it's fun for Parliament to censure me. I will hear the questions and answer them," he said.

Editorial Views Opposition's 'Show Trial'

*BK0906022993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
9 Jun 93 p 4*

[Editorial: "Censure bid 'warning sign' to political elite"]

[Text] SHOWTIME has arrived for the Opposition. For three days running beginning today, the public—if they bother to watch television or listen to the radio broadcast of the much ballyhooed noconfidence debate—will be overwhelmed by an endless flood of rhetoric from opposition parliamentarians intent on berating Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and his Cabinet ministers. The Chat Thai Party and the Chat Phatthana-led opposition alliance which sought the censure debate against five individual ministers and the entire Cabinet respectively have reportedly lined up dozens of sharp-tongued speakers to "grill" the ministers on a wide range of topics, including the highly-personal issue of the bedroom affairs of the Prime Minister.

Like a show trial which constitutes a travesty of justice, the Opposition's "showtime" seems to contain all the elements of an exercise in self-parody. To begin with, a censure debate is supposed to be an important weapon to be used sparingly by the Opposition to keep the Government in check against any abuses or excesses. Unfortunately however, this does not seem to be the case. Both the Chat Thai and the Chat Phatthana-led opposition blocs appear to have their own hidden ulterior motives. One suggestion that Chat Phatthana wants the Government overthrown in order to pre-empt an attempt by the Revenue Department to claim backdated taxes from the assets of the "unusually rich" politicians, although strongly denied by some of the politicians involved, sounds more acceptable as a possible motive for the move to censure the Government than a true desire to see the affairs of state carried out in a proper manner for the public interest. Or the "open secret" desire of the Chat Thai Party for a Cabinet reshuffle which would pave the way for its inclusion in the coalition government.

After eight months in office, there is little question that the government of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has failed to live up to our expectations. The coalition parties had, during their first few months, wasted precious time in stabbing each other in the back and squabbling nonsensically. The Government has also erred in the handling of a recent farmers' protest in Kamphaeng Phet which resulted in the fatal beating of a farmer leader. It has also messed up the second stage

expressway project to such an extent that no one really knows when the network will be open for use by the public or whether any sensible foreign investors will dare to invest in a government mega-project in the future.

But has the Opposition performed any better during the same period? A quick review reveals that there is almost nothing in the way of concrete achievements that the Opposition can boast about either. Take, for instance, the total lack of alternative measures put forward by the Opposition to deal with the paddy price slump when it was lashing the Government for its failure to shore up paddy prices. Stirring up the farmers to protest or providing free transport to bring protesting farmers to Bangkok as some Chat Thai MPs did is, to anybody with a modicum of common sense, no solution at all to the paddy price problem. But there seems to be one thing that the Opposition can pride itself on and this is its seemingly ceaseless yearning to assume the government's role or to become a part of the coalition.

Except for the juicy stuff about the Prime Minister's personal life which is one of the Opposition's focal points of debate and also a subject of public interest, the next three days of fireworks in Parliament would seem to be overkill which, at best, will serve the Opposition's perceived objective of demonstrating to their constituents that they are actually doing something they are being paid for.

But what the public is badly in need of is not a profusion of rhetoric—either from the Opposition or the Government—which will flood the chamber of the Parliament and fill our ears for three days running. What matters, after this boring exercise of seemingly endless talk and mud-slinging, is whether the Opposition will emerge as a more effective and responsible mechanism to counter-check the Government. Of greater importance is whether this Administration which has failed us so disappointingly in the past eight months will emerge as more competent and politically mature with a stronger leadership for the rest of its term in office.

Saudis Give Information on Jewelry Theft Case

*BK0806051593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
8 Jun 93 p 1*

[Text] Saudi Arabia has informed the Interior Ministry it believes jewellery seen worn in public by the wife of a police general was among that stolen by Thai worker Kriangkrai Techamong from the home of a Saudi prince.

Interior Ministry sources said Riyadh has informed Bangkok that the owner of the stolen jewellery had been shown a picture of the policeman's wife wearing the jewellery—a diamond-studded necklace.

The picture, which was published in a local daily, was noticed and later sent to Saudi Arabia for verification by the jewellery owner Prince Faysal Fahd 'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud.

Kriangkrai was caught in Thailand in 1990 after he had stolen a large amount of jewellery from the palace of the Saudi prince in 1989 while working there as a servant.

The case received wide media coverage after Saudi Arabia complained that not all of the stolen items which the police had recovered from Kriangkrai had been returned.

An Interior Ministry committee assigned to review the police investigation of the theft and the killings of four Saudi diplomats, which took place about the same time, has threatened to arrest persons found in possession of the stolen valuables.

The committee has questioned former Central Investigation Bureau chief Pol Gen [Police General] Bunchu Wangkanon, who handled the theft case.

Pol Gen Bunchu said he had information that could lead to the arrests of the persons who stole the recovered jewellery.

Deputy Foreign Minister Reports on Saudi Visit

BK0906074293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Saudi leaders have expressed interest in undertaking a joint venture with Thailand. They also support the strengthening of bilateral relations. Speaking upon his return from Saudi Arabia yesterday, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan told reporters that his discussion with Saudi leaders mainly involved the creating of better understanding between the two countries. He said both countries had agreed to increase contacts on labor cooperation. The deputy minister said the government investigation into the jewelry theft has been satisfactory to Saudi Arabia.

He also said Thailand will play a leading role in opening ASEAN gateway to Africa. The project will start next month, when Thailand raises it for discussion with ASEAN counterparts. This will also promote cooperation between ASEAN and other regions of the world.

1st Quarter Exports 6.8 Percent Below Target

*BK0406041093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
4 Jun 93 pp 15, 22*

[Text] Exports in the first four months of this year rose at an annual rate of 8.4 percent, which was 6.8 percent below target, according to the Commerce Ministry's latest estimates.

The latest figures lend further support to Deputy Minister Phaithun Kaeothong's statement on Wednesday that export targets for the year will have to be trimmed.

The ministry has not yet revised its 981-billion-baht target for this year, and Mr Phaithun has said officials will have to consult with the private sector to obtain a more realistic picture.

Yesterday, Mr Phaithun blamed the weak performance on a "large" decline in the value of agricultural exports. Garments, the number-one merchandise export, were almost 20 percent below target.

The minister said discussions are being held with other agencies on ways to increase competitiveness, for example, through further restructuring of import taxes to cut the costs of parts and materials.

The Commerce Ministry is also working hard to promote new exports such as glass, leather and printed products, and to expand into new markets such as the Middle East, Africa, eastern Europe, South America and Indochina, Mr Phaithun said.

Using actual export figures for January to March and estimates based on 70 percent of the actual figures for April, the ministry calculates that merchandise exports in the first four months reached 281 billion baht up 8.4 percent from 259.29 billion baht in the same period last year. The target set at the beginning of this year was 301.37 billion baht.

However, the minister remained confident yesterday that the second half of the year will see brighter prospects. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that the world economy will grow by 2.2 percent by the end of the year compared with last year's 1.8 percent, he said.

Mr Phaithun also cited IMF predictions that the United States, Thailand's leading market, will enjoy 3.2 percent economic growth this year, and that Japan will pull out of recession to grow 1.3 percent.

Agricultural exports for the period declined 14.6 percent to 48.5 billion baht 11.2 percent below the target of 54.6 billion baht. Worst hit were rice exports of 9.28 billion baht, 14.6 percent below the 10.73-billion-baht target;

and tapioca, 14 percent short of target at 7.13 billion baht. Both earned almost 30 percent less than in the same period of 1992.

Mr Phaithun said rice exports were down because important customers such as Malaysia and Middle Eastern countries had turned to Vietnam as a rice source, and other buyers such as China and Indonesia had increased domestic production.

He blamed the decline in tapioca exports on reform of the European Community's Common Agricultural Policy, which is eroding tapioca's price advantage among animal feed ingredients, he said.

Other agricultural products among the top 20 exports showing declines in the first four months of 1993 were rubber, canned seafood, sugar and frozen chicken. Frozen seafood exports were up 9.11 percent, however.

Industrial exports were up 11.7 percent in the period, but 0.6 percent below target at 185.4 billion baht. Toy exports declined 14.02 percent compared to the same period last year, to about two billion baht, while the number one export earner, garments, rose only 1.03 percent to 26.39 billion baht, 19.9 percent below target.

Mr Phaithun said that increasing garment exports has proved difficult because of sluggish demand in the EC, which is in recession, and increasing competition from countries with lower labour costs such as China and Indonesia.

Gem and jewellery exports rose by 8.7 percent, but were 7.2 percent [pct] below target at 12.3 billion baht. The minister blamed the shortfall on weaker demand in Japan.

The fastest export growth rates were found among plastics, integrated circuits, television sets and parts, furniture, air-conditioning and computers and components.

Four Months' Top Exports

| | Baht Billion | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| | Jan-Dec 92 | Jan-Dec 93 | Jan-Apr 92 | Jan-Apr 93 | Jan-Apr 93 |
| | Actual | Target | Actual | Estimates | Growth Percent |
| Garments | 86.8 | 112.5 | 26.1 | 26.4 | 1.0pct |
| Computers & Components | 57.7 | 60.0 | 16.8 | 19.0 | 13.3pct |
| Gems & Jewelry | 36.7 | 42.5 | 11.3 | 12.3 | 8.7pct |
| Frozen Shrimp & Prawns | 31.7 | 31.0 | 8.7 | 9.4 | 9.1pct |
| Rice | 36.2 | 31.0 | 13.2 | 9.3 | -29.6pct |
| Rubber | 28.9 | 30.0 | 9.9 | 9.7 | -1.7pct |
| Footwear | 25.6 | 27.5 | 8.6 | 9.4 | 8.6pct |
| Integrated Circuits | 28.6 | 27.0 | 7.9 | 10.1 | 27.5pct |
| Canned Seafood | 24.4 | 24.8 | 7.3 | 7.3 | 0.7pct |
| TVs, Components | 20.4 | 24.0 | 5.3 | 6.5 | 24.3pct |
| Tapioca | 29.6 | 23.6 | 10.1 | 7.1 | -29.1pct |

Four Months' Top Exports (Continued)

| | Baht Billion | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| | Jan-Dec 92 | Jan-Dec 93 | Jan-Apr 92 | Jan-Apr 93 | Jan-Apr 93 |
| | Actual | Target | Actual | Estimates | Growth Percent |
| Videos, Audio Equipment | 15.9 | 19.5 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 6.2pct |
| Cloth | 17.2 | 18.0 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 4.1pct |
| Sugar | 18.9 | 15.3 | 8.4 | 7.3 | -13.1pct |
| Furniture & Parts | 11.5 | 14.0 | 3.5 | 4.2 | 21.1pct |
| Plastic Products | 14.1 | 14.0 | 4.1 | 5.7 | 28.7pct |
| Frozen Chicken | 10.4 | 13.5 | 4.2 | 3.1 | -24.7pct |
| Toys | 8.8 | 10.5 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 14.0pct |
| Air Conditioning | 7.3 | 10.0 | 2.6 | 3.1 | 20.6pct |
| Rubber Products | 9.2 | 10.0 | 2.8 | 3.3 | 15.2pct |
| Total Top 20 | 520.1 | 558.7 | 163.0 | 165.7 | 1.7pct |
| Other Exports | 304.5 | 422.3 | 96.3 | 115.3 | 19.7pct |
| Total Exports | 824.7 | 981.0 | 259.3 | 281.0 | 8.4pct |

Source: Commerce Ministry

Vietnam

Remains of 26 U.S. MIA's Handed Over 8 Jun

*BK0806140193 Hanoi VNA in English 1350 GMT
8 Jun 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 8—The Vietnam MIA office today returned remains of 26 American servicemen missing in action and their personal effects to the representative of the U.S. MIA office.

The remains had been collected during the recent 23rd joint Vietnam-U.S. search, and examined by experts of the two countries.

Since March 1974, Vietnam has on 42 occasions returned remains of 558 American MIA's to the US side.

The representative of the U.S. MIA office highly appreciated the Vietnamese Government and people's cooperation in this humanitarian issue.

Commentary Views FUNCINPEC Role in Cambodia

*BK0906135693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English
1000 GMT 9 Jun 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], a major political party in Cambodia, has agreed to participate in the coalition government during the transitional period. Here is our radio comment on the issue:

In a phone interview with an RFI [Radio France Internationale] correspondent on Monday [7 June], Prince Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC party, said he wanted his father, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, to form a coalition government in Phnom Penh. The statement contradicts the statement he made on the previous day. Mr. Ranariddh said in the RFI interview the party expected and supported the proposal to form a new coalition government with his father as the president.

He said that it was common knowledge that the situation in Cambodia needed a united national government which has the task to maintain peace in the transitional period. That government should be set up immediately, following the announcement of the election result and the first meeting of the constitutional assembly.

On 7 June, FUNCINPEC radio released Prince Sihanouk's appeal to his son, calling on him to return to Phnom Penh to join efforts in national reconciliation. Prince Ranariddh had been away from Phnom Penh since the election began.

On 6 June Khieu Samphan, leader of the Khmer Rouge, sent a message expressing his support to the proposal to form a new government by Prince Sihanouk.

According to BBC radio in its broadcast on Tuesday, the State of Cambodia said that the first meeting of the new government will be held on 14 June. The announcement was made public following a meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Chea Sim. Prince Sihanouk told Mr. Chea Sim that if his party agrees to send representatives to the first meeting of the new government, that does not mean that the Cambodian People's Party accepts the election result.

The BBC reports that Prince Sihanouk and Mr. Chea Sim are trying to form a new government to replace that which collapsed last week.

President Sends Condolences to Cuba

*BK0806150793 Hanoi VNA in English 1400 GMT
8 Jun 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 8—President Le Duc Anh has extended deep sympathy to Cuban President Fidel Castro over the great losses in life and property caused by heavy rains and floods in early June.

President Le Duc Anh expressed his wish that the Cuban people would soon overcome the consequences of the disasters.

Researchers Carry Out 'General Survey' of Spratlys

*BK0806073993 Hanoi VNA in English 0627 GMT
8 Jun 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 8—The Vietnam Centre for National Sciences and Technology has sent a group of 26 research workers to the Truong Sa (Spratleys) archipelago to carry out a general survey of these islands.

During the period from April 19-May 18, 1993 the researchers studied the natural conditions of the islands, especially the big ones such as Truong Sa, Nam Yet, etc.

This survey is aimed at improving the environmental, ecological conditions in the islands, and at the same time providing guidance for the national exploitation of the natural resources and environmental protection in the areas.

PRC Party Discipline Inspection Delegation Visits

*BK0806140193 Hanoi VNA in English 1348 GMT
8 Jun 93*

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 8—A delegation of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of China led by Hou Sunxin, member of the CPC Central Committee and vice secretary of the commission, visited Vietnam from May 31 at the invitation of the Commission for Discipline Inspection of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPV CC).

While here, the delegation paid a tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, visited his residence and office and the Ho Chi Minh Museum. It was received by Le Phuoc Tho, Politburo member of the CPV CC.

The Chinese delegation held talks with a delegation of the host commission led by Do Quang Thang, secretary of the party Central Committee and head of the commission. The two sides informed each other of the achievements respectively gained by the two parties and

peoples in the process of renovation, and a number of issues on party building, inspection, and discipline in each country.

The Chinese guests paid a courtesy visit to General State Inspector General Nguyen Ky Cam, and visited Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Vinh Phu, and Song Be Provinces. They will leave Vietnam tomorrow.

National Assembly Session To Begin 21 Jun

BK0906024693 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] With the aim of gathering voters' views for the third session of the Ninth National Assembly to begin on 21 June, National Assembly deputies from Khanh Hoa Province so far have held many meetings with the people in nine constituencies of the province's five districts of Khanh Vinh, Vien Khanh, Cam Ranh, Van Ninh, and Ninh Hoa.

After a briefing by National Assembly deputies on the likely topics to be discussed at that National Assembly session, the voters raised many burning issues that must be solved in their localities. Many touched on issues such as the law on land, the law on taxes, and education, health care, and the struggle against corruption.

NHAN DAN Discusses Human Rights Issue

BK0806144393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 8 Jun 93

[From the "Press Review" program]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carries an article by Professor Vu Huu Ngoan on human rights and freedom in political activities. The article says: Those who try to teach us about human rights tend to stress only individuals' rights to various aspects and the freedom of expression. They obviously forget about Article 29, Item 1 of the Declaration on Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948 which said: All people have obligations toward society through which they are entitled to enjoy a spontaneous development of their personality. Moreover, Item 2 of this article also specified that in exercising their rights and freedoms, all people must accept limitations as stipulated by the law, respect the rights and freedoms of others, adhere to legitimate principles, and respect social order and the mutual interests of people in a democratic society.

The article further says: While striving to renovate its economy and broaden democratic activities, Vietnam has made great efforts to design a mechanism to promote democratic activities in the party and society to suit the national conditions and characteristics as well as the complicated changes in the present world. It is necessary to distinguish the differences between the individuals' rights to freedom of expression and their rights to make decisions for their actions. We must also distinguish the differences between democratic activities in society in

general and democratic activities in the Communist Party of Vietnam in particular. In Vietnam, efforts to resolve the unemployment problem are the most fundamental and urgent task in supporting the implementation of human rights. However, we must frankly admit that conditions for the comprehensive development of human beings in our country are still poor. Immediately, we must, on the basis of firmly maintaining political stability, strive to renovate our economy while broadening democratic activities. These are efforts aimed at creating and upholding fundamental conditions for implementing human rights in our country.

Bui Thien Ngo Attends Security Force Meeting

BK0706154893 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The public security force of Hai Ba Trung Ward, Hanoi, held a conference recently to review its tasks. Comrade Bui Thien Ngo, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of the interior, attended the conference.

Delegates to the conference heard reports and experiences on maintaining social order and safety in the capital city. During the past year, the public security force of Hai Ba Trung Ward scored remarkable achievements in suppressing crimes and criminals, thus taking the lead in this task.

Speaking to the conference, Comrade Bui Thien Ngo urged cadres and personnel of the public security force to bring their experiences into full play to actively prevent crimes and criminals, thus contributing to effectively maintaining social order and safety in the capital city.

Yen Bai Province Destroys Opium Plants

BK0706152393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 7 Jun 93

[Text] So far Yen Bai Province has destroyed 1,222 hectares of opium grown in the highland villages. The provincial authorities are carrying out both immediate as well as long-term measures to successfully fulfill the goal of eradicating opium planting in the province.

Australia**U.S. Support for Upgrading APEC Meeting Welcomed**

BK0906100593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0512 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Canberra, June 9 (AFP)—Officials here warmly welcomed Wednesday a statement that Washington is considering upgrading the next Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum to a government leaders meeting as proposed by Australia. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Winston Lord told the U.S. Congress the administration was considering upgrading the meeting, describing APEC as "the most promising trade organisation in Asia." The talks, to be held in Seattle in November, are scheduled at the moment as a meeting of APEC country foreign ministers.

Lord told a congressional hearing Washington regarded the 15-member APEC as a "prime example of the multilateral approach" favoured by the Clinton administration, adding: "We have to make sure that it gets more substantive."

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating has proposed using the APEC group, which is largely an Australian initiative, as the basis of an integrated market for the Asia-Pacific region. It would develop common principles in investment, harmonisation of standards in manufacturing, market access, disputes settlement and other areas.

Keating, who also wants to make sure "it gets more substantive", proposed 14 months ago holding an APEC head of government meeting, or "leaders' meeting" as it is known in consideration of the sensitivities of member countries Hong Kong, China and Taiwan.

APEC members are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and the United States.

A spokesman for Keating described Lord's remarks as "extremely welcome. [no closing quotation marks as received]

"He wrote earlier this year to President Clinton to remind him of Australia's interest in seeing the status of APEC lifted and Australian officials have continued to discuss that with American officials," the spokesman said. "We've never specifically nominated Seattle or any particular meeting as being the one we had in mind, but the American interest in the possibility is extremely welcome from our point of view."

The spokesman said Keating felt because APEC was primarily a trade body that trade ought to form the basis for the meeting, "rather than that it be just a jamboree."

Richard Holbrook, former Democratic assistant secretary of state for East Asia and one of two men who has

been tipped as the U.S. president's nominee for ambassador to Japan said upgrading the meeting was now a decision for the administration.

"I think it's a unique opportunity for the leadership of various countries to get together at the highest level and talk about common things," Holbrook said in a radio interview broadcast here Wednesday.

A key trade adviser to the Canadian Government John Curtis described APEC in a speech here recently as "a triumph of Australian foreign policy" which he said would help bring an even stronger Asian-Pacific perspective to the global agenda.

Qantas Tries To 'Sidestep' U.S. Sanctions

BK0906094893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] Sydney, June 9 (AFP)—Australia's flag carrier Qantas will attempt to sidestep sanctions imposed by the United States Government by switching three of its non-stop Sydney-Los Angeles flights to San Francisco. The move, announced by the airline Wednesday, is the latest in the battle between Washington and Canberra over access to international airline routes. It follows Washington's decision to ban three of the 10 non-stop Qantas flights from Sydney to Los Angeles from June 30 as a tit-for-tat reprisal for sanctions imposed by Canberra on the U.S. carrier Northwest Airlines. Canberra announced it would cut one of Northwest's three New York-Osaka-Sydney flights, accusing it of routinely breaching an undertaking that at least 50 percent of passengers would originate in the United States.

However, Qantas said Wednesday the switch to San Francisco was being made to enable the airline to "comply" with the U.S. order.

"To comply with an order from the United States Department of Transport, Qantas plans to switch three of its 10 weekly Sydney/Los Angeles non-stop flights to San Francisco from July 1," a company statement said. A spokesman for Qantas said he did not believe the change in schedule required U.S. Department of Transport permission because the airline was using current capacity to the west coast of the United States.

Australian Trade Minister Peter Cook is now in the United States where he is scheduled to meet U.S. transport representatives Thursday [10 June] to try for a peaceful settlement of the dispute amid conciliatory signs from Washington.

Acting U.S. Assistant Secretary for Transportation Patrick Murphy said Tuesday his department did not favour further retaliatory action. Referring to pressure from Northwest for increased sanctions, he said: "There are those who are urging us to take increased action but we're not doing so at this time and I can't say at this time we favour that."

Meantime, Qantas managing director John Ward accused the U.S. government of targeting three of the airline's most profitable and popular services.

"They are fast, comfortable flights in the very latest aircraft and their selection by the U.S. DOT indicates that the Americans are aiming to have a serious commercial impact on our operations," he added. Ward said the company's main priority was to ensure minimum disruption to its passengers.

"Many of them are heading on from the U.S. West Coast to other American destinations and they make their connections in most cases as easily in San Francisco as Los Angeles," he said in a statement. "For passengers whose ultimate destination is Los Angeles, we will provide a free connection from San Francisco down to Los Angeles."

He admitted he did not know how successful the San Francisco services would be, but said they would be operated for at least a month and kept under close review.

Qantas says the non-stop service to Los Angeles is particularly favoured by high yielding business travellers. Ward said he believed passengers should have no problems finding seats between Australia and the US on Qantas. The airline will maintain a daily non-stop flight to Los Angeles and has 25 other flights per week to the US via Fiji, Hawaii, and Tahiti.

Japan's Toshiba To Set Up Research Center in Sydney

BK0906081493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 9 Jun 93

[Text] One of the world's leading information technology companies, Toshiba, is to set up an international research and development center in Australia. The center, to be located at Toshiba's Australian headquarters in Sydney, is one of only three research centers operated by the company outside its base in Japan. A company spokesman says the center will use Australian expertise and work with local companies to develop products for Toshiba's global operations.

The federal industry minister, Alan Griffiths, has welcomed the decision saying it will help put Australia's computer industry at the forefront of global innovations.

Population Growth Slows to 1 Percent

BK0406083493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0749 GMT 4 Jun 93

[Text] Sydney, June 4 (AFP)—Australia's rate of population growth has slowed dramatically since the 1970s, mainly due to a decline in immigration, the Bureau of Statistics reported Friday. The bureau said the population at the end of December 1992 was 17,568,700, an increase of 42,600 in the last three months of 1992 and 184,700 since December 1991. This gave a population growth rate of 1.06 percent during 1992, down from 1.25 percent in 1991 and the lowest since 1978.

Growth has almost halved since the late 1980s, when the immigration boom peaked with growth of 1.78 percent in 1988. The net gain from migration in 1992 was 44,600, little more than half of the 81,700 net gain in 1991 and a quarter of the 173,000 recorded in 1988. It was the lowest in 16 years.

There was a steady natural increase in population in 1992, with deaths rising four percent to 123,800 and births three percent to 264,000.

New Zealand

Minister: Lifting of Commonwealth Sanctions 'Likely'

MB0806101593 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 0500 GMT 8 Jun 93

[Text] The Commonwealth is likely to lift some of its trade, investment and financial sanctions against South Africa once transitional measures and an election date are announced. This was announced in Wellington by New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Don McKinnon.

He said, in a statement, that if the proposed election date of 27 April was finalized it would represent a significant step forward. The governments of the Commonwealth, especially Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, had been cooperating closely on the issue of sanctions.

Not all trade sanctions would be lifted immediately. A ban on the export of weapons and certain computer and electronic equipment would stay in force until a new government was elected.

